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**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)***(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.  
Q00-1042-US1

Total Pages in this Submission

**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**Disk Drive with Read While Write Capability**

and invented by:

**Charles D. Ray, Gary Lee, and Tony Hurtado**If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 42 pages and including the following:
  - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
  - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
  - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
  - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
  - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
  - h. ☒ Detailed Description
  - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

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**Application Elements (Continued)**

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☒ Formal                      Number of Sheets 14
- b. ☐ Informal                      Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed *(original or copy)*                      ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney                      ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under  
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby  
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche *(Appendix)*
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

**Accompanying Application Parts**

8. ☒ Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & document(s))*
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. ☐ English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449                      ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

**Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)**

17. ☒ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

**Warning**

***An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.***

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
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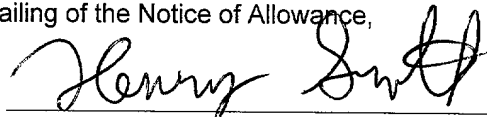
JC932 U.S. PTO  
09/695775  
10/24/00

**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	39	- 20 =	19	x \$18.00	\$342.00
Indep. Claims	4	- 3 =	1	x \$80.00	\$80.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$710.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$1,132.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **50-0283** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Charge the amount of **\$1,132.00** as filing fee.
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- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).



Signature

Henry Groth, Reg. No. 39,696  
Quantum Corporation, Patent Law Manager, Bldg 6  
500 McCarthy Boulevard, Milpitas, CA 95035  
voice 408-894-5425, fax 408-232-6581  
email [henry.groth@quantum.com](mailto:henry.groth@quantum.com)

Dated: October 24, 2000

CC:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**Applicant(s): **CHARLES D. RAY ET AL.**

Docket No.

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Serial No.

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**OCTOBER 24, 2000**

Examiner

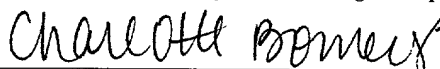
Group Art Unit

Invention: **Disk Drive with Read While Write Capability**JC932 U.S. PTO  
09/695775

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

**NEW APPLICATION***(Identify type of correspondence)*

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

**OCTOBER 24, 2000***(Date)***CHARLOTTE BOWERS***(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)**(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)***EL111015763US***("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)***Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**

**Disk Drive With Read While Write Capability**

**By**

**Charles D. Ray**

**Gary Lee**

**and**

**Tony Hurtado**

**Field of the Invention**

The present invention related generally to disk drives and in particular to read/write preamplifiers for disk drives.

**Background of the Invention**

Data storage systems such as disk drives are utilized for data storage and retrieval in a variety of applications. A typical disk drive includes a spindle motor for rotating a data disk, and an actuator for moving a head carrier that supports transducer (read/write) heads radially across the disk to write data to or read data from concentric data tracks on the disk. Many disk drives include a plurality of disks separated by spacer rings and stacked on a hub attached to the spindle motor, a plurality of read/write heads, and a plurality of head carriers, each head carrier supporting at least one read/write head. To access a data segment starting on a track, in a seek operation the head is moved radially across the tracks to the desired track where the data segment starts. Thereafter, the rotation of the disk rotates the data segment on the track under the head for writing data to or reading data therefrom.

The disk drive further includes a preamplifier electrically connected to the heads. During operation of the disk drive, the preamplifier provides two mutually exclusive functional data transfer modes: a write mode, wherein data is transmitted to the preamplifier via a write data input and is subsequently recorded to the data disk in a write operation via a head; and read mode, wherein magnetic signals sensed by a head subsequently undergo signal processing within the preamplifier before output from the preamplifier.

1  
2 Because the read and write functions are mutually exclusive, conventional disk drives  
3 suffer from timing constraints which limit the disk drive's signal handling. These limitations  
4 directly effect several functions and processes common to most disk drive devices. For  
5 example, the mutually exclusive preamplifier does not allow the disk drive to: (1) perform  
6 self-servo writing with an absolute timing and position reference by reading a reference  
7 pattern from one surface while writing a servo pattern to another surface, (2) reprocess  
8 (erase) a previously written data disk without the need for an external positioning device or  
9 time consuming algorithms, by reading on one head while writing an erase pattern on one  
10 more heads at the same time, (3) perform efficient tests for high density data disks to reduce  
11 test time by reading while writing data, (4) increase data write accuracy by effectively  
12 adjusting for head positioning errors due to disk flapping modes that cause unwanted  
13 disturbances, (5) increase data read accuracy and efficiency by reading head position  
14 information and track centering on one head while writing with another head on another  
15 surface, etc.

16  
17 In servo writing, servo patterns are typically written with uniform angular spacing of  
18 servo sectors and interleaved data sectors or blocks. An example servo pattern includes  
19 circumferentially sequential, radially staggered single or multiple frequency bursts. Servo  
20 patterns provide the disk drive with head position information to enable the actuator, such as  
21 a rotary voice coil positioner, to move the head from starting tracks to destination tracks  
22 during random access track seeking operations. Further, the servo patterns provide the disk  
23 drive with head position information to enable the actuator to position and maintain the head  
24 in proper alignment with a track centerline during track following operations when user data  
25 is written to or read from the available data block storage areas in concentric data tracks on  
26 the disk surface.

27  
28 Conventionally servo patterns are written into the servo sectors of each disk using a  
29 servo writer at a point in the drive assembly process before the hard disk unit is sealed  
30 against particulate contamination from the ambient. A servo writer is a complex and

1 expensive manufacturing unit, typically stabilized on a large granite base to minimize  
2 unwanted vibration and employing e.g. laser interferometry for precise position  
3 measurements. The servo writer typically requires direct mechanical access to the head  
4 arm, and includes a fixed head for writing a clock track onto a disk surface.

5  
6 Because of the need for direct access to the interior of the hard disk assembly of  
7 each disk drive unit, the servo writer is typically located within a clean room where the air is  
8 purged of impurities that might otherwise interfere with operation including the servo writing  
9 process or in normal usage after manufacturing. Further, such conventional servo-writing  
10 methods are very time consuming. In one example, a disk drive having two disks with four  
11 data storage surfaces can require three servo-writer-controlled passes of the transducer  
12 head over a single track during servo writing, consuming a total servo writing time as long as  
13 18.2 minutes. Thus, servo writing using servo writers in clean rooms requires both  
14 considerable capital investment in the manufacturing process and severe time penalties in  
15 the manufacturing process attributable to servo writer bottlenecks. Further, as track  
16 densities increase with evolving hard disk designs, servo writers become obsolete, and have  
17 to be replaced, or upgraded, at considerable capital expense.

18  
19 To solve the above problems, another conventional method is directed to servo  
20 writing a master pattern at full resolution on one surface of a master disk during a pre-  
21 assembly operation. Then, a master disk with the master pattern is assembled with other  
22 blank disks into a disk drive unit. After the disk drive unit is sealed against the ambient, the  
23 master servo pattern of the master disk is used as a reference by the disk unit in self-writing  
24 embedded sector servo patterns on each data surface within the enclosed unit. Finally, the  
25 master pattern is erased, leaving the disk drive unit with properly located embedded servo  
26 sector patterns on every surface, including the surface which originally included the master  
27 pattern. However, such a method had several disadvantages: (1) servo-writing time is very  
28 long, (2) certain repeatable run out information must be removed during the self-servo write  
29 operation; (3) a number of expensive servo writers are still required to write the master  
30 patterns on the master disks; and (4) and no absolute reference from the reference disk is



1 available during servo writes to a blank disk since read and write operations are mutually  
2 exclusive and possible defects in the printed media can exacerbate the problem, etc..

3  
4 There is, therefore, a need for a storage device, such as a disk drive, with  
5 simultaneous read and write capability. There is also a need for a self-servo write method  
6 utilizing simultaneous read and write to alleviate the above problems, and provide a means  
7 to cost effectively enhance storage device manufacturing and performance.

8  
9 **Brief Summary of the Invention**

10 The present invention alleviates the aforementioned shortcomings. In one  
11 embodiment, the present invention provides a data transfer driver comprising a preamplifier  
12 for a disk drive including recording media having one or more recording surfaces, one or  
13 more data transducer heads positionable relative to the recording surfaces by a head  
14 position actuator structure operating within a head position servo loop. The preamplifier  
15 comprises: a control interface for receiving preamplifier configuration information to  
16 selectively transfer data to and from recording surfaces; one or more head interfaces, each  
17 head interface electrically connected to a transducer head for controlling the transducer  
18 head for data read and/or write operations; and a controller electrically connected to the  
19 control interface and to each head interface, for controlling the operation of each head  
20 interface based on the configuration information for selectively reading from at least one  
21 recording surface via at least one transducer head while writing data to at least one  
22 recording surface via at least one transducer head. Further, the preamplifier can be used for  
23 separately writing data to at least one recording surface and/or reading data from at least  
24 one recording surface.

25  
26 In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for self-servo writing a  
27 disk drive by first transferring a servo reference pattern to a recording surface of a reference  
28 disk, wherein the reference pattern comprises servo clock information providing transducer  
29 head circumferential relative position information, and servo position information providing  
30 transducer head radial relative position information. Thereafter, the disk drive is assembled

1 by installing the reference disk and one or more data disks into the disk drive and enclosing  
2 the disks and data transducers within a housing. For self-servo writing, the reference pattern  
3 is read from the reference disk via a head, and using the read servo clock and the servo  
4 position information one or more heads are positioned and maintained at concentric track  
5 locations of one or more data disk recording surfaces to simultaneously write disk drive  
6 servo patterns onto the recording surfaces.

7  
8 Conventionally, reading a reference pattern from the disk surface via a read head is  
9 sequentially followed by switching to other heads to write a servo pattern on data disks,  
10 wherein the read and write operations are mutually exclusive (i.e., not overlapping or  
11 simultaneous). The conventional self-servo write process switches between reading and  
12 writing until the entire servo pattern is written out on a disk. However, according to the  
13 present invention there is no need to switch out of the reference pattern to write servo  
14 patterns on data disks. The reference information (e.g., timing and position information)  
15 obtained from the reference disk via one head is used to simultaneously clock out servo  
16 patterns to other data disks on other heads.

17  
18 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

19 These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will  
20 become understood with reference to the following description, appended claims and  
21 accompanying figures where:

22 FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of the architecture of an embodiment of a computer  
23 system including a disk storage system according to an aspect of the present invention;

24 FIG. 2 shows an example block diagram of the architecture of an embodiment of the  
25 drive electronics of disk drive of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

26 FIG. 3 shows a more detailed block diagram of the drive electronics of FIG. 2;

27 FIG. 4 shows an example block diagram of an embodiment of a preamplifier circuit of  
28 FIG. 3 showing example read head and write head selection circuitry according to the  
29 present invention;

30 FIG. 5 shows an example block diagram of another embodiment of the preamplifier

1 circuit of FIG. 3 showing example read head and write head selection circuitry according to  
2 the present invention;

3 FIG. 6 shows a highly diagrammatic representation of an embodiment of a magnetic  
4 printing station for printing a reference disk storage surface with a servo reference pattern;

5 FIG. 7 shows a diagrammatic representation of an embodiment of a disk drive  
6 including a disk with a servo reference pattern according to the present invention; and

7 FIG. 8 shows an example functional diagram of self-servo writing according to an  
8 aspect of the present invention;

9 FIG. 9A-B shows an example flow diagram of self-servo writing according to the  
10 present invention;

11 FIG. 10A shows an example reference pattern according to the present invention;

12 FIG. 10B shows an example flow diagram of head position control while self-servo  
13 writing using the reference pattern of FIG. 10A;

14 FIG. 10C shows a details of a portion of the reference pattern of FIG. 10A;

15 FIG. 11 shows an example diagram for generating a final servo patterns according to  
16 the present invention;

17 FIG. 12 shows an example flow diagram for writing final servo patterns according to  
18 the present invention; and

19 FIG. 13 shows an example flow diagram of reprocessing according to the present  
20 invention.

21  
22 To facilitate understanding, identical reference numerals have been used, where  
23 possible, to designate structurally/functionally identical or similar elements that are common  
24 throughout the figures.

### 25 26 **Description of the Invention**

27 Referring to FIG. 1, an example computer system 10 is shown to include a disk  
28 storage unit according to the present invention. The computer system 10 includes a central  
29 processing unit ("CPU") 14; a main memory 16, and I/O bus adapter 18, all interconnected  
30 by a system bus 20. Coupled to the I/O bus adapter 18 is an I/O bus 22 that can comprise

1 e.g. a small computer system interconnect (SCSI) bus, and which supports various  
2 peripheral devices 24 including a disk storage unit such as a disk drive 25. The disk drive  
3 25 includes drive controller electronics 26 and a head disk assembly 28 ("HDA"). As shown  
4 in FIG. 7, in one embodiment, the HDA 28 includes data disks 29 rotated by a spindle motor  
5 23, and transducer heads 27 moved radially across the data disks 29 by one or more  
6 actuators 37 for writing data to and reading data from the data disks 29  
7

8 Referring to FIGS. 2-3, in one embodiment, the drive controller electronics 26 of FIG.  
9 1 includes a data controller 30 interconnected to a servo controller 34 via a bus 31, and a  
10 read/write channel 32 interconnected to the data controller 30 via a data buffer bus 33. The  
11 read/write channel 32 and the servo controller are connected to a read the HDA 28, and  
12 specifically, in one version, to a data transfer driver comprising a preamplifier/head-  
13 select/write driver circuit 11 (preamplifier/circuit 11) in the HDA 28.  
14

15 One function of the preamplifier/write driver 11 is to preamplify the electrical signals  
16 transduced from the recorded flux transitions on the surfaces 98 of the disks 29 during  
17 reading via heads 27, and to amplify the driving current for writing data to the surfaces 98 of  
18 the disks 29 during data writing operations via heads 27. Further, the circuit 11 selects the  
19 transducer head(s) 27 for read/writing data as described further below.  
20

21 A typical data write operation initiated by the CPU 14 (FIG. 1) to the disk drive 25 may  
22 involve, for example, a direct memory access ("DMA") transfer of digital data from the  
23 memory 16 onto the system bus 20. Data from the system bus 20 is transferred by the I/O  
24 adapter 18 onto the I/O bus 22. The data is read from the I/O bus 22 by the data controller  
25 30, which formats the data into data segments with the appropriate header information and  
26 transfers the data to the read/write channel 32. The read/write channel 32 operates in a  
27 conventional manner to convert data between the digital form used by the data controller 30  
28 and the analog form suitable for writing to data disks by transducers 27 in the HDA 28  
29 selected by the preamplifier circuit 11.  
30

1 For a typical read request to transfer data segments from the HDA 28 to the CPU 14,  
2 the data controller 30 provides a disk track location to the servo controller 34 where the  
3 requested data segments are stored. In a seek operation, the servo controller 34 provides  
4 control signals to the HDA 28 for commanding an actuator 37 to position a transducer 27  
5 over said disk track for reading the requested data segments therefrom. Data read from the  
6 transducer 27 is preamplified in the preamplifier 11, and the read/write channel 32 converts  
7 the analog data signals from the preamplifier 11 into digital data and transfers the data to the  
8 data controller 30. The data controller 30 places the digital data on the I/O bus 22, wherein  
9 the I/O adapter 18 reads the data from the I/O bus 22 and transfers the data to the memory  
10 16 via the system bus 20 for access by the CPU 14.

11  
12 In one example, the surfaces 98 of data disks 29 include head positioning servo  
13 patterns, wherein for servo operations, head positioning information from data disks 29 are  
14 induced into the transducers 27, converted from analog signals to digital data in the  
15 read/write channel 32, and transferred to the servo controller 34, wherein the servo controller  
16 34 utilizes the head positioning information for performing seek and tracking operations of  
17 the transducers 27 over tracks on disks 29. In another example described further below  
18 (FIG. 7), the disks 29 do not include servo patterns, and the disk drive 25 includes a  
19 reference disk 76 having reference patterns thereon which are utilized in a self-servo writing  
20 process according to an aspect of the present invention to write servo patterns on the disks  
21 29.

22  
23 FIG. 3 shows an example block diagram of an embodiment of the circuit 11. In this  
24 embodiment, the circuit 11 includes at least one control interface comprising e.g. registers  
25 36 for receiving and maintaining information (e.g., configuration information) transmitted to  
26 the circuit 11 from an external source such as the data controller 30, the channel 32 and/or  
27 the servo controller 34. The configuration information is used to selectively configure the  
28 operation of the circuit 11, including head selection and data transfer operation modes (e.g.,  
29 via mode control bits) described below. In one example, the configuration information  
30 includes mode select information such as e.g. data transfer and head select control signals.

1  
2 The example circuit 11 further includes head interfaces comprising at least a read circuit 38  
3 and at least a write circuit 40, wherein in one embodiment of the circuit 11 the read circuit 38  
4 can be connected to a selected one of multiple heads 27 by a multiplexer function, and  
5 similarly the write circuit 40 can be connected to a selected one of multiple heads 27 by a  
6 multiplexer function. In other example versions of the circuit 11 shown in FIGS. 4-5, and  
7 described below, the circuit 11 includes a read circuit 38 and a write circuit 40 for each  
8 transducer head 27, to write data and read data, respectively. The circuit 11 further includes  
9 a mode control 41 (e.g., register or multiplexer) to provide control signals to the read and  
10 write circuits 38, 40 based on data transfer mode select information provided by the  
11 controller 34 to the register 36 of the circuit 11 for selecting one or more heads 27 for  
12 read/write operations via the read and write circuits 38, 40, respectively. Further, the mode  
13 controller 41 emits control signals to e.g. read and write cricuits 38, 40 and heads 27 to  
14 ascertain their individual operating modes at any given time.

15  
16 In one example embodiment, each read circuit 38 comprises a tri-state differential  
17 receiver and buffer, and each write circuit 40 comprises a tri-state differential driver and  
18 buffer. Data to be written is provided to each write circuit 40 along data lines 42. Preferably,  
19 a pair of lines 42 provide data to each write circuit 40, wherein both lines 42 carry the same  
20 signal, but each line 42 is inverted with regard to the other to provide noise immunity. In one  
21 version, each head 27 includes a reader element and a writer element, each writer element  
22 connected to output of a respective write circuit 40 via lines/nodes 44. Similarly, for each  
23 read circuit 38, a pair of read data lines 46 provide data signal read from the heads 27,  
24 wherein each line 46 is inverted with respect to the other line 46 to provide noise immunity.  
25 The input of each read circuit 38 is connected to a reader element of a respective head 27  
26 via lines/nodes 48.

27  
28 The data read by a head 27 passes through the preamplifier circuit 11 which also  
29 provides head selection and write driving functions during data write operations. As shown  
30 in the example FIG. 4, the circuit 11 enables four separate heads 27 to be individually

1 selected. Based on the information in the registers 36, the mode control 41 enables the  
2 circuit 11 to provide several functional/operational modes including: (1) Write Mode, (2)  
3 Read Mode, (3) Servowrite Mode and (4) Read While Write, or simultaneous read and write,  
4 ("RWW") mode. In one example, the mode control 41 comprises a multiplexer wherein at  
5 least the registers 36 provide selection signals to the multiplexer 41, whereby the multiplexer  
6 41 generates control output signals for selecting/enabling the read and write circuits 38, 40  
7 of the circuit 11, and transducer heads 27, according to the present invention.

8  
9 In the Write Mode, the circuit 11 provides functions including receiving data  
10 transmitted to write data inputs 50 of the circuit 11 by e.g. the read/write channel 32 (or the  
11 controller 34) and recording the received data to a surface 98 of a disk 29 using at least one  
12 selected write circuit 40 and a corresponding head 27 in a write operation.

13  
14 In the Read Mode, the circuit 11 provides functions including receiving signals  
15 sensed by at least one selected head 27 via a read circuit 38, at read data outputs 52 of the  
16 circuit 11. In a typical read/write operation, a single head 27 is selected by the mode control  
17 41 according to head selection information received by the registers 36 (e.g., serial interface  
18 (SIF) registers) from the read/write channel 32 (or the controller 34). In one example, the  
19 circuit 11 utilizes an external state signal (e.g., serial word) from the read/write channel 32,  
20 providing the state of each head on an external pin 54 (R/-W), wherein the head state  
21 information includes whether a selected head 27 is in read or write mode (e.g., R/-W hi  
22 indicates read mode, whereas R/-W low indicates write mode). The mode control 41 in  
23 circuit 11 utilizes the head state information to change the state of a selected head 27 as  
24 necessary based on the required read/write operation.

25  
26 In the Servowrite Mode, the circuit 11 provides functions including receiving data  
27 transmitted to the write data inputs 50, and recording the received data to one or more  
28 surfaces 98 using one or more selected write circuits 40 and one or more corresponding  
29 heads 27 in a write operation. In one version, servowrite mode is accomplished by the mode  
30 control 41 enabling the writer element of multiple heads 27 simultaneously, wherein the

1 same input data from the write data inputs 50 are sent to multiple heads 27 for writing at the  
2 same time or in overlapping form. In this case, reader elements of multiple heads 27 are not  
3 enabled at the same time because read and write functions are gated by the state of R/-W  
4 signal, and the read and write functions can only be mutually exclusive.

5  
6 In the Read-While-Write (RWW) mode the circuit 11 provides functions including  
7 simultaneously: (1) receiving signals sensed by at least one selected head 27 at read inputs  
8 of a corresponding read circuit 38, processing the signal within the read circuit 38, and  
9 outputting the read data at the read data outputs 52 of the circuit 11, and (2) receiving data  
10 transmitted to write data inputs 50 of the circuit 11, processing the write data signals within  
11 one or more selected write circuits 40, and recording data output from the selected write  
12 circuits 40 to a surfaces 98 of one or more disks 29 using one or more corresponding heads  
13 27 in a write operation.

14  
15 In one RWW example, at least one head 27 and corresponding read circuit 38 are  
16 selected for a read operation, and at least another head 27 and corresponding write circuit  
17 40 are selected for a write operation. In another RWW example, the same head 27 and  
18 corresponding read and write circuits 38, 40 are selected for simultaneous read and write  
19 operations using that one selected head 27. Other examples are possible, such as, the  
20 mode control 41 can select a single read circuit 38 to supply output signals read from a disk  
21 surface 98 by a corresponding head 27 to the read data outputs 52, while simultaneously  
22 selecting one or more write circuits 40 for writing data to one or more disk surfaces 98 via  
23 corresponding heads 27. As such, the circuit 11 outputs a signal read by a head 27 via a  
24 corresponding read circuit 38, while servowrite mode is in effect (e.g., servowrite mode  
25 enabled and R/-W is low), wherein data is written via one or more selected write circuits 40  
26 and corresponding heads 27. Each of the circuits 38, 40 can include additional components  
27 for further processing of read/write signals.

28  
29 In one embodiment, the mode control 41 comprises a multiplexer circuit (Mode  
30 Control Mux) providing control signals via control lines 56, 58 to the read and write circuits



1 38, 40, respectively, based on the information in the registers 36. The circuit 11 includes a  
2 control line 56 for each read circuit 38, and a control line 58 for each write circuit 58. The  
3 mode control 41 controls (e.g., enable/disable) the read and write circuits 38, 40. In one  
4 RWW scenario, to read data, the mode control 41 enables a selected read circuit 38 and  
5 corresponding head 27, and disables the remaining read circuits 38 in the circuit 11 to  
6 prevent simultaneous transfer of data from more than read circuit 38 to the read data outputs  
7 52 of the circuit 11.

8  
9 Utilizing enable/disable is an example form of write control and read control. Write  
10 control and read control can be used in combination with enable and disable controls. A  
11 control register controls the head read bias to control read. As such, the control of the  
12 reader portion of a head 27 for RWW can be controlled by e.g. one or more of the following:  
13 Bias Enable (Controller flips the bit); Reader Mux select/deselect; Read driver 38  
14 enable/disable.

15  
16 To write data, the mode control 41 enables one or more selected write circuits 40 and  
17 corresponding heads 27 for writing data. For example, the circuit 11 provides Servowrite  
18 Mode by enabling a plurality of selected write circuits 40 and corresponding heads 27  
19 simultaneously, wherein the same data from the write data inputs 50 of the circuit 11 is  
20 provided to each enabled write circuit 40 for recording a plurality of disk surfaces 98 by a  
21 plurality of corresponding heads 27.

22  
23 In one implementation, the registers 36 comprise a read head select register 60, a  
24 control register 62, and a write head select register 64. The circuit 11 provides independent  
25 control of read and write circuits 38, 40 and corresponding heads 27 using the serial  
26 encoded control register 62. Based on the information in the control register 62, the mode  
27 control 41 enables or disables different task related modes (data transfer modes) where  
28 reading and writing combinations are different (e.g., Read Mode, Write Mode, Servowrite  
29 Mode, RWW Mode, etc). In one example, data transfer mode select information is provided  
30 by the controller 34 to the control register 62 of the circuit 11 for selecting one or more heads

1 27 for read/write operations via the read and write circuits 38, 40, respectively.

2  
3 The head select registers 60, 64 store information for the mode control 41 to select  
4 one or more heads 27 for read and/or write operations, respectively. The control register 62  
5 is used in conjunction with read and write head select registers 60, 64, whereby through  
6 coordination of aforementioned modes, and read/write circuit and head selections, the circuit  
7 11 provides the disk drive 25 with the capability to perform functions not previously possible  
8 or cost-efficient. Such functions include self-servowriting, self-reprocessing, negating disk  
9 flapping when writing data fields, track-centering while writing (for dual actuator), calculating  
10 position error before head switches (single actuator), etc..

11  
12 Referring to FIG. 5, in one RWW mode example, a control bit in the control register  
13 62 signals the mode control 41 to place the circuit 11 in the Servowrite Mode. Another set of  
14 bits in the control register 62 act as an adjunct head select register, wherein based on the  
15 write head select register 64, the mode control 41 selects a pair of heads 27 for writing in  
16 Write Mode, leaving the read head select register 60 to select a head 27 to simultaneously  
17 read in Read Mode. For example, a processor 110 in the servo controller 34 (FIG. 3)  
18 provides mode select information to the mode control 41. In one case, pre-programmed  
19 mode information is stored in the memory 305 which is utilized by the processor 110 to  
20 specify selection of particular read and write circuits 38, 40. The mode information is  
21 communicated from the processor 110 via a serial data interface 303 in the controller 34, to  
22 the serial control register 62 and written to the read and write head select registers 60 and  
23 64. Based on the mode information, the mode control 41 provides control signals 56, 58 to  
24 the read and write circuits 38, 40, respectively, to allow e.g. a single selected read circuit 38  
25 to read data via a head 27 and supply an output signal to the read data output 52 of the  
26 circuit 11, while simultaneously selecting one or more write circuits 40 to write data from  
27 input 50 via one or more corresponding heads 27. In one example, the controller 41 further  
28 utilizes the state of the heads 27 for head selection (i.e. R/-W signal) described above.

29  
30 As such in Servowrite Mode (i.e. servowrite mode enabled and R/-W is low), the

1 circuit 11 processes an output signal from a read circuit 38. Further, an additional control bit  
2 in the mode control 41 prevents the read data path 46 from being disabled during the  
3 Servowrite Mode write operation (i.e. R/-W low) thus e.g. allowing reading of servo  
4 information while writing data, to be used in the normal drive operation for radial and  
5 circumferential positioning of the heads.

6  
7 In another scenario, the circuit 11 performs the RWW function for the Read Mode  
8 and the Write Mode (in addition to that in the Servowrite Mode), wherein the control 41  
9 provides control signals to the read and write circuits 38, 40 to read and write to the same  
10 head 27 simultaneously. Further, the circuit 11 can provide control signals to the read and  
11 write circuits 38, 40 for simultaneously: (1) receiving signals sensed by a plurality of selected  
12 heads 27 at inputs corresponding to selected read circuits 38, and transmitting the read data  
13 at the read data outputs 52 of the circuit 11, and (2) receiving data transmitted to write data  
14 inputs of a plurality of the circuits 40 for recording to a plurality of surfaces 98 using a  
15 plurality of corresponding selected heads 27 in a write operation. In one version, at least  
16 one head 27 is selected for a read operation, and at least another head 27 is selected for a  
17 write operation simultaneously. In another version, the same head 27 is selected for  
18 simultaneous read and write operations.

19  
20 The read channel circuitry can be modified to be independently selectable to be  
21 active or inactive during the write function, providing: (1) independent operation of the write  
22 and read paths through the read channel device, (2) support for simultaneous read and write  
23 data streams from the disk controller portion of the ASIC, and (3) redefined ASIC-Read  
24 channel interface.

25  
26 The circuit 11 can be utilized in place of conventional read/write preamplifiers in many  
27 mass storage devices such as, but not limited to, hard disk drives. The RWW function of the  
28 circuit 11 provides the ability to independently select the read and write functions/operations  
29 utilizing e.g. read and write circuits 38, 40, such that read and write circuits 38, 40 can be  
30 selected to operate separately or together (e.g., simultaneously). The RWW function

1 enhances existing capabilities of disk drives, and improves processing and performance.  
2 Further, the RWW function provides cost-effective versatility that can not be duplicated with  
3 a single IC conventional preamplifier.

4 In one example, a disk drive 25 including the circuit 11 provides self-servo write with  
5 absolute referencing that a servowriter offers. The disk drive 25 includes the ability to  
6 stagger or bank write by reading real-time position and timing information while writing servo  
7 patterns. The circuit 11 provides such capability by allowing reading a reference pattern  
8 from a reference surface of a disk using one selected head while writing servo patterns on  
9 one or more blank disk surfaces using one or more selected heads, simultaneously. For  
10 example, one head 27 is selected for reading a reference pattern for providing position and  
11 fundamental timing information for servo patterns to be written simultaneously on an  
12 adjacent head or heads. Many methods of self-servowriting can be adapted to be more  
13 efficient and more accurate using the circuit 11. A few examples of improved self-servo-  
14 writing according to the present invention are described below. Other examples are possible  
15 and are contemplated by the present invention.

16  
17 One such method is read-while-write self-servo-write using a reference disk. This  
18 method of self-servowriting incorporates the use of e.g. a magnetic printed media surface  
19 that includes both timing and radial position information (self-servo patterns). FIG. 6 shows  
20 a highly diagrammatic representation of an embodiment of a magnetic printing station for  
21 printing a reference disk storage surface with a servo reference pattern. a magnetic printing  
22 station 70 magnetically prints or otherwise transfers a servo reference pattern 72 to one  
23 surface 74 of a magnetic disk 76, known as a reference disk.

24  
25 The magnetic printing station 70 can utilize one of several known magnetic transfer  
26 processes. One such process includes the steps of applying a unidirectional magnetic  
27 domain orientation to a blank storage disk, such as the surface 74 of the disk 76. Then, a  
28 reticle or magnetic die having the desired magnetic reference pattern is placed into close  
29 proximity with the storage surface 74 of the disk 76, and the disk 76 is heated to approach  
30 the Curie temperature of the storage media on the surface 74. The reference surface 74 is

1 selectively remagnetized with the aid of a reverse bias field and e.g. localized heating in  
2 accordance with the reference pattern established by the reticle or die.

3  
4 In cases where an optical reticle is used, intense local heating through reticle  
5 apertures can be obtained from a laser beam, for example, in accordance with well  
6 understood magneto-optical principles in order to provide selective magnetization of  
7 domains of the reference-patterned surface 74 in accordance with the servo reference  
8 pattern 72. Care must be taken during the magnetic printing process not to damage or  
9 contaminate the disk 76. Preferably, although not necessarily, the magnetic printing process  
10 is carried out in a very clean environment within a disk manufacturing process.

11  
12 The reference disk 76 is placed in a disk stack, and is used to recalibrate timing and  
13 position before each servo write. Referring to FIG. 7, after the servo reference pattern 72  
14 has been applied to storage surface 74 of the printed disk 76, the disk 76, along with other  
15 blank disks 29 are assembled onto a spindle 80 of a disk drive 25. The spindle 80 is  
16 mounted within an enclosed head-disk assembly (HDA) 28, and is rotated at a  
17 predetermined angular velocity by a spindle motor 23. A comb-like head actuator structure  
18 37 is included with the HDA 28, wherein the head actuator structure 37 includes head arms  
19 90 rotated by e.g. a rotary voice coil motor 92 in order to position transducer heads 27,  
20 respectively, adjacent to the reference surface 74 of the disk 76 and blank surfaces 98 of the  
21 disks 29.

22  
23 After the disks 76, 29 and heads 27 are installed, the HDA 28 is enclosed by a cover  
24 to prevent unwanted particulate contamination. A drive controller electronics module 26,  
25 such as a printed circuit board carrying large scale integrated circuits and other components,  
26 is mechanically attached to the HDA 28 and electrically connected thereto by a suitable  
27 interconnection 102, in order to complete the assembly of the disk drive 25. The disk drive  
28 25 is then placed into a self-scan chamber 104 and connected to a suitable power supply,  
29 wherein a control and status collection computer (not shown) collects data concerning the  
30 disk drive 25 during self-scan procedures.

In one version of the present invention, a special program in the drive controller electronics 26 (e.g., resident in memory 305 (FIG. 3) or downloaded from a status collection computer) enables a head 27 to read the reference pattern 72, and in turn enables one or more other heads 27 to write precise servo patterns on each storage surfaces 98 in accordance with a final servo pattern features plan. After all of the surfaces 98 of the disks 29 have been written with final servo patterns, the reference pattern 72 is overwritten, either in the self-scan station 104, or later with user data when the disk drive 25 is installed in a user computing environment for data storage and retrieval operations.

Referring to FIG. 8 in conjunction with FIG. 7, in a self-servo writing method using the drive controller electronics 26 including an embodiment of said circuit 11, the timing and position information of reference pattern 72 is read from the reference disk 76 via one head 27 and the information is processed by: (1) a position control process executed by the processor 110 and (2) a pattern generator process 112, (e.g., instructions stored in memory 305) within the drive controller electronics 26. Simultaneous with reading the reference pattern 72 from the reference disk 76 via a selected head 27, a servo pattern is written to surfaces 98 of one or more other disks 29 via one or more other heads 27 under control of a servo write process executed by the processor 110, thereby generating cohesive cylindrical timing/servo wedges on the other disks 29. In FIG. 8, a head 27 is utilized per disk surface (designated as heads 27<sub>x</sub> to indicate multiple heads 27 in FIG. 8, wherein 'x' is a head index).

The method provides self-servo writing with absolute radial and circumferential referencing of conventional servowriters, but without disadvantages of the conventional servowriters. The disk drive 25 staggers or bank writes the servo patterns on surfaces 98 of disks 29 using real-time position and timing information from the reference disk 76 during the servo write process. The circuit 11 allows reading timing/position information 72 from the reference disk 76 on one head 27 while simultaneously writing servo patterns on surfaces 98 of one or more disks 29 using one or more other heads 27.

Specifically, in one example, in self servowrite using RWW mode, the circuit 11 is configured by information transmitted to the registers 60, 62, 64 therein, for the mode control 41 to select and enable: (1) one read circuit 38 in Read Mode to read the reference pattern 72 via a corresponding read head 27, and (2) one or more write circuits 40 are selected for Write Mode (or alternatively Servowrite Mode) to write a servo pattern on surfaces 98 one or more disks 29 via one or more selected heads 27.

Head selection via register 60 is performed to select a read head 27, and Servowrite Mode selection via register 64 is performed to select one or more write heads 27 for writing servo patterns, whereby effectively the read head 27 is mapped out from writing during self-servo write operation. This allows the read head 27 to read the reference pattern 72 from the disk 76 and provide the timing and position information back to the disk drive controller electronics 26 for processing, and simultaneously writing servo patterns on surfaces 98 of disks 29 via write heads 27, without disturbances from the writer elements of the dedicated read head 27. In this way, the drive controller electronics 26 can clock out the servo pattern on one or more disks 29 in the same manner as a clock track.

The reader element of the read head 27 reads the reference pattern 72, and provides a read head signal 114 to the read/write channel 32 (including an AGC/Filter circuit 304, servo demodulator 306 and pulse detector 308). In the self-servowrite RWW mode, the read/write channel 32 utilizes the read signal 114, and resolves timing information 114A and position information 114C (periodically) from the read signal 114. The read/write channel 32 decodes position information 114C and timing information 114A from the reference pattern 72 by e.g. either amplitude (i.e., standard burst demodulation) or interval (i.e., phase angle position) to hold accurate head placement and simultaneously write servo patterns to the disks 29 using write heads 27. In this way, the disk drive 25 in effect functions equivalent to a servowriter. In another version, disk drive firmware comprising programmed logic or control instructions (e.g., resident in memory 305 in FIG. 3) resolves the read signal 114 into the position and timing signals 114C and 114A, respectively. Other versions are possible and

1 contemplated by the present invention.

2  
3 In either case, after servo patterns are written to the disks 29, the read head 27 can  
4 be selected in Write Mode to overwrite the reference pattern 72 on disk 76 with a servo  
5 pattern such that the disk 76 can be used for storing user data. Preferably, at least two  
6 circuits 38 and/or 40 are selectable in the RWW mode such that the reference surface 74 of  
7 reference disk 76 can be overwritten in the same manner after the servo pattern has been  
8 recorded to the other disk 29.

9  
10 Unlike the present invention, conventional self-servo write processes do not provide  
11 for multiple tasking in reading a reference pattern 72 from a disk 76 while writing servo  
12 patterns on one or more disks 29. Conventionally, reading a reference pattern 72 from the  
13 disk surface 74 via a read head 27 is sequentially followed by switching to other heads 27 to  
14 write a servo pattern on an disk 29, wherein the read and write operations are mutually  
15 exclusive (i.e., not overlapping or simultaneous). As such conventionally, the reference  
16 pattern 72 is read for a time period via one head 27 to obtain timing and head position  
17 information, and for a following time period the timing and position information is utilized to  
18 position another head 27 and write the servo pattern on a disk 29 (e.g., a wedge). The  
19 conventional self-servo write process switches between reading and writing until the entire  
20 servo pattern is written out on a disk 29.

21  
22 By contrast, in a self-servo write using RWW process according to the present  
23 invention, there is no need to switch out of the reference pattern 72 Read Mode to write  
24 servo patterns on disks 29. As such, the reference information (e.g., timing and position  
25 information 114A, 114C, respectively) obtained from the read signal 114 from the reference  
26 disk 76 via one head 27 are used to simultaneously clock out servo patterns to other disks  
27 29 on other heads 27. Further, any timing errors (e.g., due to rotation speed variations) are  
28 compensated for in real-time. The disk drive 25 accounts for rotation speed variations by  
29 correcting timing errors while a servo pattern is being written, to efficiently generate an  
30 accurate servo pattern, without need for repeating servo writes due to e.g. timing/speed



1 variations between reference read servo and write operations which negatively affect said  
2 conventional methods.

3  
4 In self-servo-write method, the circuit 11 is configured by information transmitted to  
5 the registers 36 therein, to select e.g. read circuit 38 and corresponding head 27 for reading  
6 timing and position information (i.e., Read Signal 114) from the reference surface 74 of the  
7 reference disk 76. The reference information provides head position and timing information  
8 to the servo controller 34 (FIG. 3) for positioning write heads 27 as necessary for writing  
9 servo patterns. Said position and timing information are processed by the write clock pattern  
10 generator process 112 and the servo/position control processor 110 within the drive  
11 controller electronics 26 (e.g., servo controller 34). For writing servo patterns, head  
12 positioning information 116 is generated by the servo processor 110, and servo pattern  
13 information 118 is provided by the pattern generator process 112.

14  
15 The RWW preamplifier circuit 11 enables real-time and/or ultra high bandwidth closed loop  
16 operation (e.g., for self-servo write) that can not be accomplished with a conventional drive  
17 preamplifier. Referring to FIGS. 9A-B, an example process for self-servo write using a  
18 printed media reference pattern is described. The process controls the orientation of  
19 magnetic domains to create a final servo pattern that is concentrically and radially arranged  
20 on a magnetic recording surface 98 that is typically used in the manufacture of hard disk  
21 drives. The final servo pattern includes position and timing information that is used by the  
22 drive mechanical, electrical and control system to establish absolute radial and circumferential  
23 placement of its transducer heads.

24  
25 As described above in relation to FIGS. 6-7, creating a printed media reference  
26 surface 74 (step 200) can be accomplished in several ways. One example is to place a  
27 mask onto a magnetic surface that has all of its domains oriented in one direction. The  
28 mask is made of magnetic shielding material and is affixed to a surface of the media disk 76.  
29 A magnet of opposing orientation is passed over the masked surface of the media, and  
30 causes the unmasked areas of the media to invert their orientation. The domain orientation

differences are read by a transducer head as flux transitions, and are used in a drive for timing and amplitude metrics. The reference disk 76 is installed into the disk drive 25 during the assembly process (step 202) and drive controller electronics 26 included therein (step 204). When the drive assembly is complete, the drive 25 is installed into a self-scan chamber 104 (step 206) that provides a stable mounting structure, thermal stability, power and an interface buss that can be connected to a PC for loading a test process firmware into the drive 25.

After the disk drive 25 is powered up (step 208) and spins up (step 210) to a programmed/desired rotational speed (steps 212, 214), the self-servowrite process can begin (step 216). The self-servo write process is controlled by the processor 110. Registers 35 in the controller 34 are setup to contain information for the processor 110 to use for the self-servowrite process. The registers 35 are loaded with the number of spokes, number of heads, length of reference spokes, number of transfer fields, length of transfer fields, head width, total number of tracks, and other pertinent information to complete the process. In one example, the self-servo write process is executed by the processor 110 from instructions (e.g., firmware) resident in a memory/ROM 305 (step 218), as follows. The heads 27 are moved to position a head 27 over the reference pattern 72 (step 220) and based on control/configuration signals from the processor 110, the control 41 places the circuit 11 in normal Read Mode (described above) (step 222). Accordingly, the control 41 enables a transducer head 27 that corresponds to the printed media surface 74 (step 224), and the reference information 72 is read via the selected read head 27 to generate the read signal 114.

FIG. 10A shows an example of servo position information composite of the reference pattern 72 on the reference surface 74. The reference pattern 72 includes a plurality of concentric tracks, each including reference spokes 122 with a multiplicity of transfer fields 124 therebetween. The reference spokes 122 in concentric tracks form radial spokes. The FIG. 10A example shows several transfer fields 124 between two reference spokes 122. Each reference spoke 122 includes gray code (I), and servo burst quadrature pattern (II) of

1 servo bursts A, B, C and D. The gray code is a binary-like coding system that is part of the  
2 reference pattern 72 and contains coarse position information, and the amplitudes of servo  
3 bursts A, B, C and D provide fine head position information. Each transfer field 124 includes  
4 servo burst pseudo-quadrature pattern (III) A1, B1, for on track head positioning. FIG. 10C  
5 shows further details of spokes 122 and transfer fields 124, providing position and timing  
6 information (e.g., transfer timing). In another example there can be on transfer field 124  
7 between a pair of spokes 122, wherein the transfer field includes multiple pairs of servo burst  
8 pseudo-quadrature patterns A1, B1.

9  
10 Referring to FIG. 10B, the position and timing information in reference pattern 72  
11 induces the read signal 114 in the read head 72, wherein as described above the read signal  
12 114 includes the position signal 114C and the timing signal 114A. The A/D circuit (servo  
13 demode) 306 in the channel 32 resolves the position information signal 114C and the timing  
14 information signal 114A from the read signal 114. The position control processor 110 uses  
15 the position information 114C as it is read by the selected head/sensor 27 from the reference  
16 pattern 72, as feedback during the RWW self-servowrite process to determine the current  
17 head position. The current head position is then subtracted from the desired head position  
18 by the processor 110 and a position *command* is issued based on the difference. The  
19 position *command* is output through a servo control interface 302 as digital position data 116  
20 and is converted to an analog signal in the power electronics driver 119 which drives the  
21 VCM 92 in the HDA 28. This method is utilized during self-servo writing to maintain accurate  
22 position control of the write head 27 over the disk surface 29.

23  
24 Referring back to FIGS. 9A-B, the servo processor 110 waits for a pattern sequence  
25 that initiates a servo lock attempt. If the data that follows is what is expected, an initial lock is  
26 complete, and absolute position is attempted to be acquired by reading the gray coded  
27 region of the reference spoke 122 (FIGS. 10A, 10C, 'Cyl. #') (step 226). Once the absolute  
28 position is acquired, the position control loop (e.g., FIGS. 10A-B) (step 228) is commanded  
29 to move a write transducer head to the 'start servowrite' position on at least one disk surface  
30 98 for writing final servo patterns thereon (steps 230, 232).

FIG. 11 shows an example diagram for generating a final servo pattern signal 118. Referring to FIGS. 9A-B in conjunction with FIG. 11, when the transducer 27 is stabilized over the starting position on at least a disk surface 98, the pattern generator 112 (FIG. 11) loads a 'final servo pattern' (e.g. from a memory 39) into a shift register 126 as a series of 1's and 0's (step 234), and the pattern generation sequence begins. The clock multiplier PLL 111 is phase locked to the signal 114A (the timing frequency of the transfer field 124 in FIG. 10C) (steps 236, 238). Thereafter, in response to configuration signals from the processor 110, the control 41 sets write currents for write heads 27 (step 240), and selects write heads 27 for writing the servo pattern 118 on disk surfaces 98 (register 64, FIG. 2) (step 242). The control 41 selects RWW Mode for the circuit 11 (step 244), and self servo write pattern is synchronized with reference spoke index 122 (steps 246, 248). A spoke counter is loaded with the number of spokes 122 per revolution of disk 76 (step 250). When the read head reaches the end of a reference spoke 122 (step 252), the selected write head 27 is enabled (step 254), a transfer field counter (e.g., within registers 35) is loaded with the number of transfer fields 124 between each pair of reference spokes 122 in the pattern 72 (step 256), and the read transducer reads a transfer field in the reference pattern 72 (step 258).

The servo positioning according to FIGS. 10A-B operates in overlap or simultaneous mode with the pattern generation and write operation according to FIG. 11. Servo positioning by processor 110 is accomplished by reading and processing the amplitude of the A1 and B1 servo bursts of the transfer pattern 72 as shown in FIGS. 10A-B. The A1 and B1 bursts are used only for on-track center maintenance between the reference spokes 122. The reference spokes 122 include absolute position information (i.e. gray code and four burst quadrature), and are used for track to track positioning. Pattern generation is accomplished per example of FIG. 11 and can be traced through using the signal 114. The timing signal 114A is used for pattern generation (e.g., FIG. 11), and the position signal 114C is used for servo positioning (e.g., FIGS. 3, 10B and 11).

Referring back to FIGS. 9A-B, an example servo positioning and parallel/overlapping

1 pattern generation and servo write process as controlled by the processor 110 is described.  
2 After reading a transfer field 124 in step 258, in a servo positioning process, the read head  
3 27 is maintained on track center of a transfer field (step 260) by reading and processing the  
4 amplitude of the A1 and B1 servo bursts of the transfer pattern as shown in FIGS 10A-B,  
5 wherein A1 and B1 are used for on-track center maintenance between the reference spokes.  
6 The difference between read head sensed amplitude of A1 and B1 (A1-B1) is measured  
7 (step 262), wherein if the difference A1-B1 is not zero, then the head position is adjusted  
8 (step 264). The steps 262, 264 are repeated to maintain the head on track center of the  
9 transfer field. Once the head is on track center, the gray code in the reference spoke is read  
10 (step 276) and a determination is made if the head is on the proper track number (step 278).  
11 If so, the spoke counter is decremented by one (step 280), wherein when the spoke counter  
12 shows zero, indicating that all spokes on the current track have been processed (step 282),  
13 the head is moved to the next radial track position (step 284). To process the remaining  
14 tracks of the reference pattern 72, the positioning process proceeds to step 246.  
15

16 In a simultaneous or overlapping pattern generation and servo write process under  
17 control of the processor 110, after reading each transfer field 124 from the disk 76 and  
18 positioning of the read and write heads, a corresponding final servo pattern 118 is written on  
19 each disk surface 98 via a corresponding write head. Specifically, each transfer field is read  
20 from the disk 76 via a read head (step 258), a corresponding final servo pattern is written via  
21 a selected write head on a disk surface 98 (steps 266, 268), the process selects the next  
22 write head in sequence for the next surface 98 of a disk (step 270), decrements the transfer  
23 field counter by one (step 272), and if the transfer field counter is not zero (step 274), the  
24 process proceeds back to step 258 for reading the next transfer field and writing a final servo  
25 spoke 128 (in servo pattern 118) using said next selected write head to a corresponding disk  
26 surface 98. Steps 258 through 274 are repeated in a loop for all transfer fields 124 between  
27 each pair of reference spokes 122. Once all transfer fields 124 between a pair of reference  
28 spokes 122 have been so processed, the pattern generation and servo write process  
29 proceeds to step 276 for processing remaining reference spokes on the current track of the  
30 reference pattern 72.

1  
2 In the example pattern generation process of FIG. 11, once the index reference  
3 spoke 122 is detected and the first transfer field begins, the clock multiplier 111 'out' is  
4 enabled. The read signal 114 via circuit 11 is processed by channel 32 (AGC 304 and pulse  
5 detect 308) to generate the timing signal 114A for the clocking the serial shift register 126.  
6 The pattern of 1's and 0's from the register 126 is processed by the preamplifier circuit 11 to  
7 control the direction of current through the selected 'write' transducer heads. The current  
8 through a transducer head is changed from one direction to the other causing the polarity of  
9 the media magnetic domains to change within the effective field. The series of transitions on  
10 each surface 98 are the final product spoke 128 (this process is graphically depicted as the  
11 closed loop operation in FIG 11). In this example, the final spokes 128 are placed onto  
12 different disk surfaces 98 in a stagger pattern depicted by example in FIG. 12, wherein the  
13 disk assembly comprises a reference disk 76 and three data disks 29, the reference disk  
14 having a reference surface and a blank surface 98, and each of the three data disks having  
15 two opposing blank surfaces 98. Each disk surface has a corresponding head 27 (total of  
16 eight heads). In the example of FIG. 12, a read head 27 (e.g., HDn) is positioned to read the  
17 reference pattern 72 from disk 76, and each of a plurality of write heads 27 (e.g., HDn+1  
18 through HDn+7) is positioned to write final servo patterns on a surface 98 of a disk 29. There  
19 are seven transfer fields between each pair of reference spokes in the reference pattern 72,  
20 and steps 258-274 are repeated for each transfer field. This process is repeated for all  
21 tracks until all of the tracks are written across the surfaces of disks 29. In another example  
22 the final servo spokes 128 are placed onto different disk surfaces 98 in a bank write.

23  
24 Once all tracks of the reference pattern 72 have been processed (step 286), a self-  
25 scan process (step 288) begins as described further below. If in step 278 the head is not on  
26 the proper track number, the servo positioning process proceeds back to step 230 to move  
27 the head(s) to proper start position. If in step 282 all the spokes and transfer fields for the  
28 current track have not been processed, the positioning process proceeds to step 252 to  
29 process the next spoke.

As such, referring to FIGS. 8, 10A-C and 11, the position control processor 110 and the clock and pattern generation process (circuit) 112 allow dissection of the reference information 72 read from the reference disk 76 to select the portion of reference pattern data to analyze (e.g., position/timing information). In one embodiment, the position control process comprises a logic circuit implemented in an ASIC or a process executed by processors (e.g., processor 110) within the controller ASIC 34 of the drive controller electronics 26. Position is maintained by servo-burst equalization shown by example in FIGS. 10A-B. Any timing errors are erased and rewritten until they are within acceptable tolerance, such that timing remains coherent across entire surface 98. The reference read frequency is phase locked to the pattern generator clocking frequency thus keeping the servo pattern synchronously locked to the rotational speed variations caused by the spindle motor control error (e.g., FIG. 11). The clock signal 114A provides the timing for the clock multiply circuit 111 which provides the timing and frequency for the pattern generator circuit 112. The process/circuit 112 under firmware control generates the servo pattern data 118. Because the read reference signal 114 is read simultaneously while writing final servo patterns, the servo pattern data 118 written to each surface 98 is synchronized to the rotational speed of the disks 29. The relationship between signals 114 and 118 is closed loop due to the RWW function of the circuit 11.

Disk flapping modes (i.e. mechanical distortions to a flat disk surface caused by rotational and axial excitation) can cause unwanted disturbances. RWW according to the present invention can take advantage of the spoke stagger (sequential spoke offset from one surface to the next) from head to head. Specifically, for each disk having two opposing surfaces 98 and two corresponding heads 27, a position error can be updated when a head 27 is writing on one surface, by reading the servo information on the opposite disk surface 98. The radial movement detected by the opposite head is the inverse of the other head. This information can be used for write-position correction, or as a write error detection. Further track centering on one head while writing on another can be performed actively.

Further, self-servowriting using magneto-resistive type transducer (MR) including a

1 writer element and a reader element, is made simpler by the present invention because it is  
2 not necessary to compensate for the reader element offset from the writer element in the  
3 same head 27. The dedicated read signal from a read head 27 is a relative reference for  
4 radial position, and an absolute reference for timing because timing is coherent from track to  
5 track. Position ultimately depends on each head's physical placement over the  
6 corresponding disk surface. The disk surface provides a relative reference in the same way  
7 that a servowriter uses an external reference to establish the radial location of the heads 27.  
8 The offset difference between the final product servo wedges/spokes and the reference  
9 surface need only be compensated for during the reference-overwrite process. Once the  
10 tracks are placed, the transfer fields on the reference surface are transferred to obtain the  
11 product servo wedges in an absolute reference to the other tracks. However, due to the  
12 reader/writer element offset in a head, if a track is copied from a new reference track, the  
13 track is placed relative to the writer elements location which would slightly shift or offset the  
14 track location relative to the rest of the cylinders, thereby necessitating compensation. This  
15 offset can be reconciled during the reference surface overwrite process (reprocess) with a  
16 geometry normalization table or algorithm which accounts for the offset difference of  
17 absolute track placement due to use of the new reference surface and the physical  
18 reader/writer element offset difference of the head 27. For an example track density said  
19 offset can be more than 10 tracks.

21 In another aspect, the present invention provides a referenced media translation self-  
22 servo writing method. The disk drive assembly includes at least one reference disk with a  
23 reference surface having a reference pattern including fundamental timing (e.g., clock  
24 frequency) and position information. In a method different from the printed media reference  
25 disk above (FIG. 6), the reference pattern 72 is written on the surface 74 of the reference  
26 disk 76 e.g. using a spin stand writer. Thereafter, the media translation self-servo writing  
27 process using RWW circuit 11 according to the present invention is similar to that for a  
28 printed media reference disk described above for in relation to FIGS. 9A-B, 10A-C, 11, 12,  
29 and therefore is not repeated again.



1 The frequency of the reference pattern 72 is a multiple of the final servo pattern  
2 frequency to provide servo pattern timing. The position information can be provided using a  
3 standard modified servo/timing burst, or a time interval pattern (e.g., printed media) decoded  
4 as timing and position information. The time interval pattern provides position information  
5 using a phase tracking method rather than a burst amplitude demodulation. A time interval  
6 pattern is typically used on printed media (FIG. 6), but can also be generated using  
7 conventional head/media writing methods. In a time interval pattern, radial position is  
8 derived by equating a gap length to a radial location. There are two major fields to a time  
9 interval pattern: a Reference Field and a Chevron Field. The Reference Field includes series  
10 of radially coherent transitions that begin and end in an exact time period across the radial  
11 stroke of the transducer 27 creating a reference domain (e.g., the first domain, 'index' begins  
12 at 0(t) and ends at (t)+10 micro seconds relative to the transducer 27 as it moves in any  
13 radial direction). The Chevron Field is a series of angularly coherent transitions relative to  
14 the Reference Field, where the beginning boundary is offset in distance from the ending  
15 boundary of the Reference Field creating an angular gap between fields across the radial  
16 stroke. The gap between the first field and the second field increases across the disk in a  
17 radial direction. Thus the phase of the range of the gap,  $\Delta(t)$ , can be resolved as radial  
18 position and tracked electronically. i.e.  $(t)_{\max} - (t)_{\min} = \Delta(t) = 360$  degrees.

19  
20 An example reprocess method according to the present invention, referenced above,  
21 is now described. Typically a disk drive 25 must be reprocessed if servo-written with a faulty  
22 servo pattern. Further the disk drive must be re-servo-written if the disk drive failed the final  
23 test for marginal reasons. Reprocessing is performed when a portion of the servo pattern  
24 that was written needs to be erased before a new servo pattern can be placed. The present  
25 invention provides a self-reprocess method using RWW mode for self-reprocessing, wherein  
26 e.g. an error in self-servo write process requires erasure and re-writing of erroneous servo  
27 patterns. A controlled velocity read sweep locates residual data on disk surfaces 98 and  
28 indicates where the erroneous servo patterns needed to be erased. In one case, the MR  
29 reader of head(s) 27 is used to scan the disk surface 98 by performing an estimated velocity  
30 sweep with the reader enabled. Once erroneous data is located, the amplitude of that signal

1 is used by the servo controller 110 to establish a position, and then that location is erased.

2  
3 Conventionally reading and writing operations are mutually exclusive, and as such  
4 servo control for reprocess is performed using one head to find and assure erasure of the  
5 desired location. However, when performing head to head position referencing, the offsets  
6 between different heads have to be characterized and compensated first. The conventional  
7 process includes locating the erroneous servo pattern with a first head, switching to a  
8 second head, servoing, compensating and erasing with that second head. A disadvantage  
9 of the conventional method is that there must be servo data present for an alternate head  
10 that corresponds to the location of interest on the surface to be erased in order to properly  
11 place the erase head.

12  
13 Referring to the example flow diagram in FIG. 13 for self-reprocessing according to  
14 the present invention, the start position (e.g., track) of the area (e.g., old/erroneous servo  
15 pattern) to be erased is located on at least a disk surface 98 (step 290). The circuit 11 is  
16 configured by servo processor 110, which transmits configuration information to the registers  
17 36 of the circuit 11, such that the mode control 41 places the circuit 11 in RWW Mode (step  
18 292), wherein a first head 27 is selected to read residual position information from a first disk  
19 surface 98 to establish transducer radial position control (step 294), while at the same time  
20 one or more heads are selected to erase patterns on one more disk surfaces 98 in back or  
21 stagger form (step 295). Thereafter, data on first disk surface 98 is erased using the first  
22 head (step 296) and under control of the servo processor 110, the actuator moves the head  
23 to the next track location of the area to be erased (step 297), and repeats the above steps  
24 until all tracks in the erase area have been processed (step 298). In embodiments of the  
25 heads 27 comprising separate reader and writer elements (e.g., an MR head), the self-  
26 reprocess method can be utilized within the same head 27, wherein one reader element in  
27 the head 27 is utilized to read, while the write element in the head is used to simultaneously  
28 write.

29  
30 In the example self-reprocess using RWW method, the read signal is not disturbed

1 by writing a constant current (DC erase). This is true even while reading and writing on the  
2 same head. Servo and erase are all that is needed. All data can be erased because  
3 reading can be performed by a head's reader element in front of the same head's writer  
4 element. Where data must be detected and erased across one or more disk surfaces 98,  
5 then servo reading can be performed on one head while bank erasing (e.g., erasing a  
6 plurality of disk surfaces) on other heads. There is no need to switch continuously from  
7 writing to reading and back again, resulting in a considerable time saving in the erase  
8 process (reprocess).

9  
10 As such, in one example according to the present invention, reprocessing a disk drive  
11 is performed when there is a format failure. The failure can be for many reasons, but all or  
12 part of one or more disk surfaces 98 must be erased so that the disk drive can be re-written  
13 with new final servo spokes. Conventionally, the process of erasing previously written servo  
14 spokes is performed on a servowriter where the actuator 37 is controlled using an external  
15 positioning source. When self-servowriting, the erase process is difficult because tracks are  
16 being erased, and references are disappearing with each erase. It is especially difficult to  
17 erase using all heads via a conventional preamplifier. A RWW circuit 11 according to the  
18 present invention allows signals to be read on one head while erasing disk surfaces on the  
19 same head or on or more other heads. The process of controlling the actuator location  
20 using RWW Reprocess is similar to controlling the actuator in normal drive operations. With  
21 MR type heads where reader and writer transducers are separate, it is contemplated to read  
22 and erase (erase = DC write) on the same head. This makes the reprocessing process very  
23 efficient.

24  
25 The preamplifier circuit 11 can be implemented as an integrated circuit, ASIC, IC,  
26 firmware, etc.. In addition to self-servo writing and reprocess examples described herein,  
27 the circuit 11 can be used for implementing other processes and functions within a data  
28 storage drive that can benefit from the functions provided by the circuit 11. Though in the  
29 description herein the circuit 11 has been designated as a preamplifier, the functions of the  
30 circuit 11 can be implemented in other components in the HDA 28, and/or the drive

1 electronics 26 of the disk drive 25. Similarly, the controller 34 and the processor 110 can be  
2 implemented as an ASIC, IC or other logic circuit configured to perform the  
3 functions/processes described herein.  
4

5 Providing a disk drive with the capability to read and write data simultaneously to  
6 different data storage locations according to the present invention, is advantageous  
7 from many perspectives, for example test time reduction. As density increases test time  
8 also increases, necessitating the introduction of methods that are more time efficient.  
9 The Read-While-Write (RWW) functionality allows new methods to be used that would  
10 reduce test time in test process steps by as much as 50%. In another version, the disk  
11 drive 25 can include multiple circuits 11, wherein the RWW function allows each of the  
12 multiple of circuits 11 to perform simultaneous read and write functions.  
13

14 The present invention has been described in considerable detail with reference to  
15 certain preferred versions thereof; however, other versions are possible. Therefore, the spirit  
16 and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the preferred  
17 versions contained herein.

**What is claimed is:**

1. A data transfer driver for a data storage device including recording media having one or more recording surfaces, one or more data transducer heads positionable relative to the recording surfaces by a head position actuator structure operating within a head position servo loop, the data transfer driver comprising:

one or more head interfaces, each head interface electrically connected to a transducer head for controlling the transducer head for data read and/or write operations;

a mode controller electrically connected to each head interface, for controlling the operation of each head interface for selectively reading data from at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head.

2. The data transfer driver of claim 1 wherein the mode controller further controls the operation of each head interface for selectively: writing data to at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head, and/or reading data from at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head.

3. The data transfer driver of claim 1 wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head interfaces based on configuration information, wherein the configuration information includes data transfer mode and transducer head selection information.

4. The data transfer driver of claim 3 wherein the configuration information includes:

read mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head interfaces for selectively reading data via at least one transducer head;

write mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head interfaces for selectively writing data via at least one transducer head;

servowrite mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the



1  
2           9.     The data transfer driver of claim 7 wherein each head interface comprises:  
3                 a read circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to read data  
4 from the data disk, and  
5                 a write circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to write data  
6 to the data disk.  
7

8           10.    The data transfer driver of claim 7 wherein the mode controller controls the  
9 operation of the head interfaces based on the configuration information for writing data to a  
10 recording surface via a transducer head while reading data from the recording surface via  
11 that same transducer head.  
12

13           11.    The data transfer driver of claim 7 wherein the mode controller controls the  
14 operation of the head interfaces based on the configuration information for writing data to at  
15 least one recording surface via at least one transducer head while reading data from at least  
16 one recording surface via at least another transducer head.  
17

18           12.    The data transfer driver of claim 1, wherein the data storage device comprises  
19 a disk drive and the recording media comprises one or more magnetic data disks.  
20

21           13.    A method for self-servo writing a disk drive comprising the steps of:  
22                 (a)     transferring a reference pattern onto at least one recording surface of a  
23 reference disk, wherein the transferred reference pattern comprises servo clock information  
24 providing transducer head circumferential relative position information, and servo position  
25 information providing transducer head radial relative position information;  
26                 (b)     assembling the disk drive including the steps of installing the reference  
27 disk and one or more other data disks into the disk drive and enclosing the disks and data  
28 transducers within a housing, each data disk including at least one recording surface; and  
29                 (c)     reading the transferred reference pattern from the reference disk via a  
30 transducer head and using the read servo clock and the servo position information to

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1 position and maintain one or more transducer heads on one or more said data disk  
2 recording surfaces while writing final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk  
3 recording surfaces.

4  
5 14. The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of  
6 generating the final servo patterns for writing to the disk surfaces.

7  
8 15. The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:  
9 including a preamplifier in the disk drive for selectively reading data from at  
10 least one recording surface using at least transducer head while selectively writing data to  
11 one or more recording surfaces using one or more transducer heads.

12  
13 16. The method of claim 15 wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of:  
14 using the preamplifier for reading the transferred reference pattern from the  
15 reference disk via a transducer head while writing final servo patterns onto said one or more  
16 data disk recording surfaces using one or more transducer heads.

17  
18 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:  
19 including a drive controller in the disk drive to control the preamplifier for  
20 selectively reading the reference pattern from the reference disk via a transducer head and  
21 using the read servo clock and the servo position information to position and maintain one or  
22 more transducer heads on one or more said data disk recording surfaces, while writing final  
23 servo patterns onto said one or more data disk recording surfaces.

24  
25 18. The method of claim 15 wherein the preamplifier comprises:  
26 a control interface for receiving configuration information to selectively transfer  
27 data to and/or from at least a recording surface;  
28 a head interface for each transducer head wherein each head interface is  
29 electrically connected to a corresponding transducer head for controlling the transducer  
30 head for data read and/or write operations; and



1 a mode controller electrically connected to the control interface and to the  
2 head interface, for controlling the operation of the head interfaces based on the configuration  
3 information for selectively: (i) reading data from at least a recording surface using at least a  
4 transducer head, (ii) writing data to at least recording surface using at least a transducer  
5 head, and/or (iii) writing data to a recording surface using at least a transducer head while  
6 reading data from a recording surface using at least a transducer head.

7  
8 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the configuration information includes data  
9 transfer mode, and transducer head selection information.

10  
11 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the configuration information includes  
12 read mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
13 interfaces for selectively reading data via at least one transducer head;  
14 write mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
15 interfaces for selectively writing data via at least one transducer head;  
16 servowrite mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the  
17 head interfaces to selectively writing data via a plurality of transducer heads; and  
18 read-while-write (RWV) mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of  
19 the head interfaces for selectively reading data from at least one recording surface via at  
20 least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface via at least  
21 one transducer head.

22  
23 21. The method of claim 16 wherein each head interface comprises:  
24 a read circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to read data  
25 from a recording surface, and  
26 a write circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to write data  
27 to a recording surface.

28  
29 22. The method of claim 16 wherein the mode controller controls the operation of  
30 the head interfaces based on the configuration information for writing data to a recording

1 surface via at least one transducer head while reading data from that recording surface that  
2 same transducer head.

3  
4 23. In a disk drive including one or more data disks having recording surfaces,  
5 one or more transducers, a reference disk having a reference pattern on a recording surface  
6 thereof, the reference pattern comprising servo clock information providing transducer head  
7 circumferential relative position information, wherein the heads are positionable relative to  
8 the recording surfaces by a head position actuator structure operating within a head position  
9 servo loop, a method for self-servo writing including the steps of:

10 reading the transferred reference pattern from the reference disk via a  
11 transducer head and using the read servo clock and the servo position information to  
12 position and maintain one or more transducer heads on one or more said data disk  
13 recording surfaces while writing final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk  
14 recording surfaces.

15  
16 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the disk drive further includes a preamplifier  
17 in the disk drive for selectively reading data from at least one recording surface using at least  
18 transducer head while selectively writing data to one or more recording surfaces using one  
19 or more transducer heads, the method further comprising the steps of using the preamplifier  
20 for reading the reference pattern from the reference disk via a transducer head while writing  
21 final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk recording surfaces using one or more  
22 transducer heads.

23  
24 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of:  
25 using the read servo clock and the servo position information to position and  
26 maintain one or more transducer heads on one or more said data disk recording surfaces,  
27 while writing final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk recording surfaces.

28  
29 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the preamplifier comprises:  
30 a control interface for receiving configuration information to selectively transfer

1 data to and/or from at least a recording surface;  
2 a head interface for each transducer head wherein each head interface is  
3 electrically connected to a corresponding transducer head for controlling the transducer  
4 head for data read and/or write operations; and  
5 a mode controller electrically connected to the control interface and to the  
6 head interface, for controlling the operation of the head interfaces based on the configuration  
7 information for selectively: (i) reading data from at least a recording surface using at least a  
8 transducer head, (ii) writing data to at least recording surface using at least a transducer  
9 head, and/or (iii) writing data to a recording surface using at least a transducer head while  
10 reading data from a recording surface using at least a transducer head.

11  
12 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the configuration information includes data  
13 transfer mode, and transducer head selection information.

14  
15 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the configuration information includes:  
16 read mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
17 interfaces for selectively reading data via at least one transducer head;  
18 write mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
19 interfaces for selectively writing data via at least one transducer head;  
20 servowrite mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the  
21 head interfaces to selectively writing data via a plurality of transducer heads; and  
22 read-while-write (RWW) mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of  
23 the head interfaces for selectively reading data from at least one recording surface via at  
24 least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface via at least  
25 one transducer head.

26  
27 29. The method of claim 26 wherein each head interface comprises:  
28 a read circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to read data  
29 from a recording surface, and  
30 a write circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to write data

1 to a recording surface.

2  
3 30. A disk drive comprising:  
4 recording media having one or more recording surfaces,  
5 one or more data transducer heads,  
6 a head position actuator structure for positioning the heads relative to the  
7 recording surfaces, operating within a head position servo loop;  
8 a preamplifier comprising:  
9 one or more head interfaces, each head interface electrically  
10 connected to a transducer head for controlling the transducer head for data read and/or write  
11 operations;  
12 a mode controller electrically connected to each head interface and  
13 responsive to the servo controller, for controlling the operation of each head interface based  
14 on configuration information for selectively reading data from at least one recording surface  
15 via at least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface via at  
16 least one transducer head; and  
17 a drive controller configured for controlling the head position actuator structure  
18 to position the heads relative to the recording surfaces, and for providing the configuration  
19 information to the preamplifier for selectively reading data from at least one recording  
20 surface via at least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface  
21 via at least one transducer head.

22  
23 31. The disk drive of claim 30 wherein the mode controller further controls the  
24 operation of each head interface for selectively: writing data to at least one recording surface  
25 via at least one transducer head, and/or reading data from at least one recording surface via  
26 at least one transducer head.

27  
28 32. The disk drive of claim 30 wherein the configuration information includes data  
29 transfer mode and transducer head selection information.  
30

1           33.     The disk drive of claim 32 wherein the configuration information includes:  
2                     read mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
3 interfaces for selectively reading data via at least one transducer head;  
4                     write mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the head  
5 interfaces for selectively writing data via at least one transducer head;  
6                     servowrite mode, wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the  
7 head interfaces to selectively writing data via a plurality of transducer heads; and  
8                     read-while-write (RWW) mode, wherein the mode controller controls the  
9 operation of the head interfaces for selectively reading data from at least one recording  
10 surface via at least one transducer head while writing data to at least one recording surface  
11 via at least one transducer head.

12  
13           34     The disk drive of claim 30 wherein the preamplifier further comprises a control  
14 interface connected to the mode controller, the control interface for receiving configuration  
15 information from the drive controller wherein the mode controller controls the operation of the  
16 head interfaces based on the configuration information.

17  
18           35.     The disk drive of claim 30 wherein each head interface comprises:  
19                     a read circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to read data  
20 from a recording surface, and  
21                     a write circuit for controlling the corresponding transducer head to write data  
22 to a recording surface.

23  
24           36.     The disk drive of claim 30, wherein the mode controller controls the operation  
25 of the head interfaces based on the configuration information for writing data to a recording  
26 surface via a transducer head while reading data from the recording surface via that same  
27 transducer head.

28  
29           37.     The disk drive of claim 30, wherein the recording media includes one or more  
30 data disks having recording surfaces, the disk drive further including a reference disk having

1 a reference pattern thereon, wherein the transferred reference pattern comprises servo clock  
2 information providing transducer head circumferential relative position information, and servo  
3 position information providing transducer head radial relative position information;

4 wherein the drive controller is further configured for controlling the actuator  
5 and the preamplifier in a servo control loop, for reading the reference pattern from the  
6 reference disk via a transducer head and using the read servo clock and the servo position  
7 information to position and maintain one or more transducer heads on one or more said data  
8 disk recording surfaces while writing final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk  
9 recording surfaces.

10  
11 38. The disk drive of claim 37, wherein the drive controller controls the actuator  
12 and the preamplifier for:

13 reading the reference pattern from the reference disk via a transducer head  
14 and using the read servo clock and the servo position information to position and maintain  
15 one or more transducer heads on one or more said data disk recording surfaces;

16 while at the same time generating and writing final servo patterns onto said  
17 one or more data disk recording surfaces.

18  
19 39. The disk drive of claim 37, wherein the drive controller further comprises:

20 a pattern generator for generating the final servo patterns for writing to the  
21 recording surfaces; and

22 a servo controller for controlling the actuator and the preamplifier in a servo  
23 control loop, for reading the reference pattern from the reference disk via a transducer head  
24 and using the read servo clock and the servo position information to position and maintain  
25 one or more transducer heads on one or more said data disk recording surfaces while  
26 writing the final servo patterns onto said one or more data disk recording surfaces.

**Abstract**

A data transfer driver for a disk drive including recording media having one or more recording surfaces, one or more data transducer heads positionable relative to the recording surfaces by a head position actuator structure operating within a head position servo loop. The data transfer driver includes a preamplifier having: a control interface for receiving configuration information to selectively transfer data to and from recording surfaces; one or more head interfaces, each head interface electrically connected to a transducer head for controlling the transducer head for data read and/or write operations; and a controller electrically connected to the control interface and to each head interface, for controlling the operation of each head interface based on the configuration information for selectively: (i) writing data to at least one recording surface, (ii) reading data from at least one recording surface, and (iii) simultaneously reading from at least one recording surface and writing data to at least one recording surface. The preamplifier can be used for self-servo writing a disk drive by transferring a servo reference pattern onto a recording surface of a reference disk, where the reference pattern includes servo clock information providing transducer head circumferential relative position information, and servo position information providing transducer head radial relative position information. The disk drive is assembled by installing the reference disk and one or more data disks into the disk drive and enclosing the disks and data transducers within a housing. The self-servo writing process includes the steps of reading the reference pattern from the reference disk via a head and using the read servo clock and the servo position information to precisely position and maintain one or more heads at concentric track locations of one or more disk recording surfaces while writing final servo patterns onto the recording surfaces at the concentric track locations in accordance with servo pattern features.

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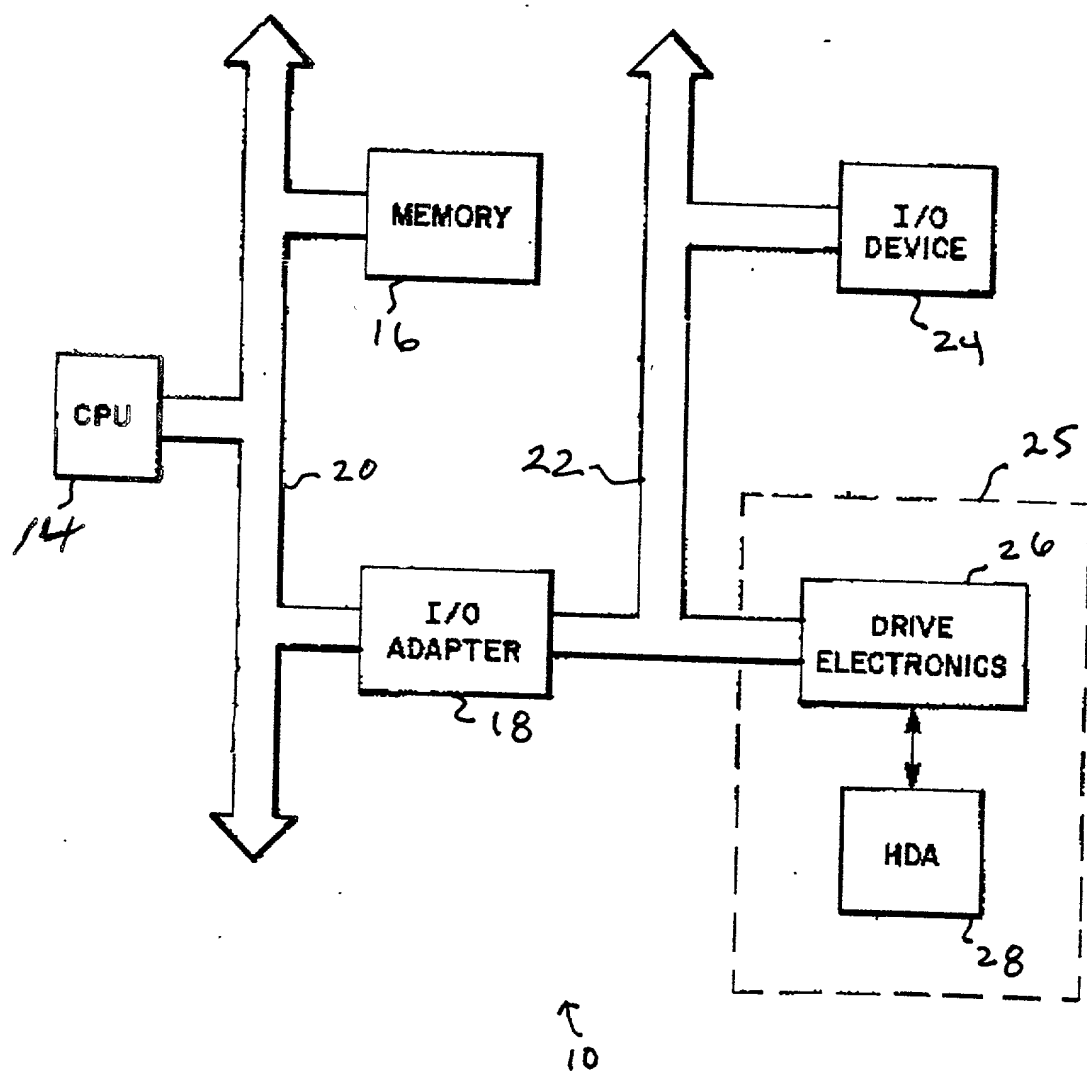
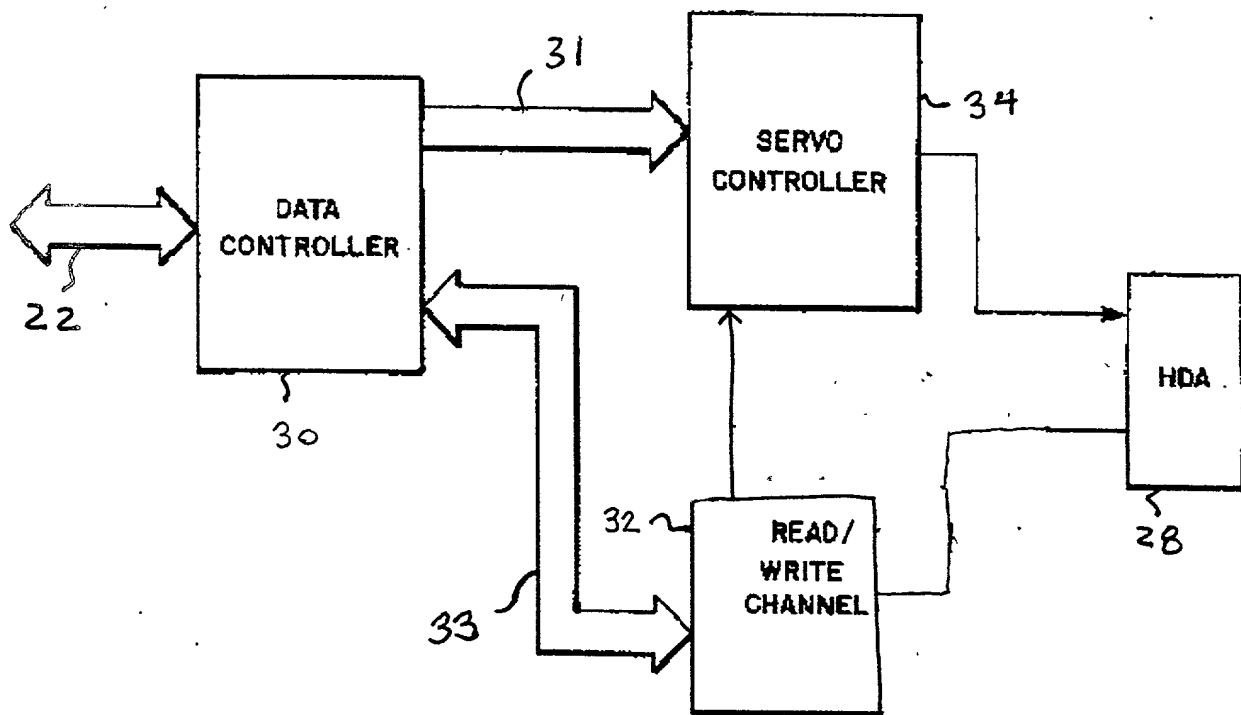


FIG. 1



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26 ↗

FIG. 2

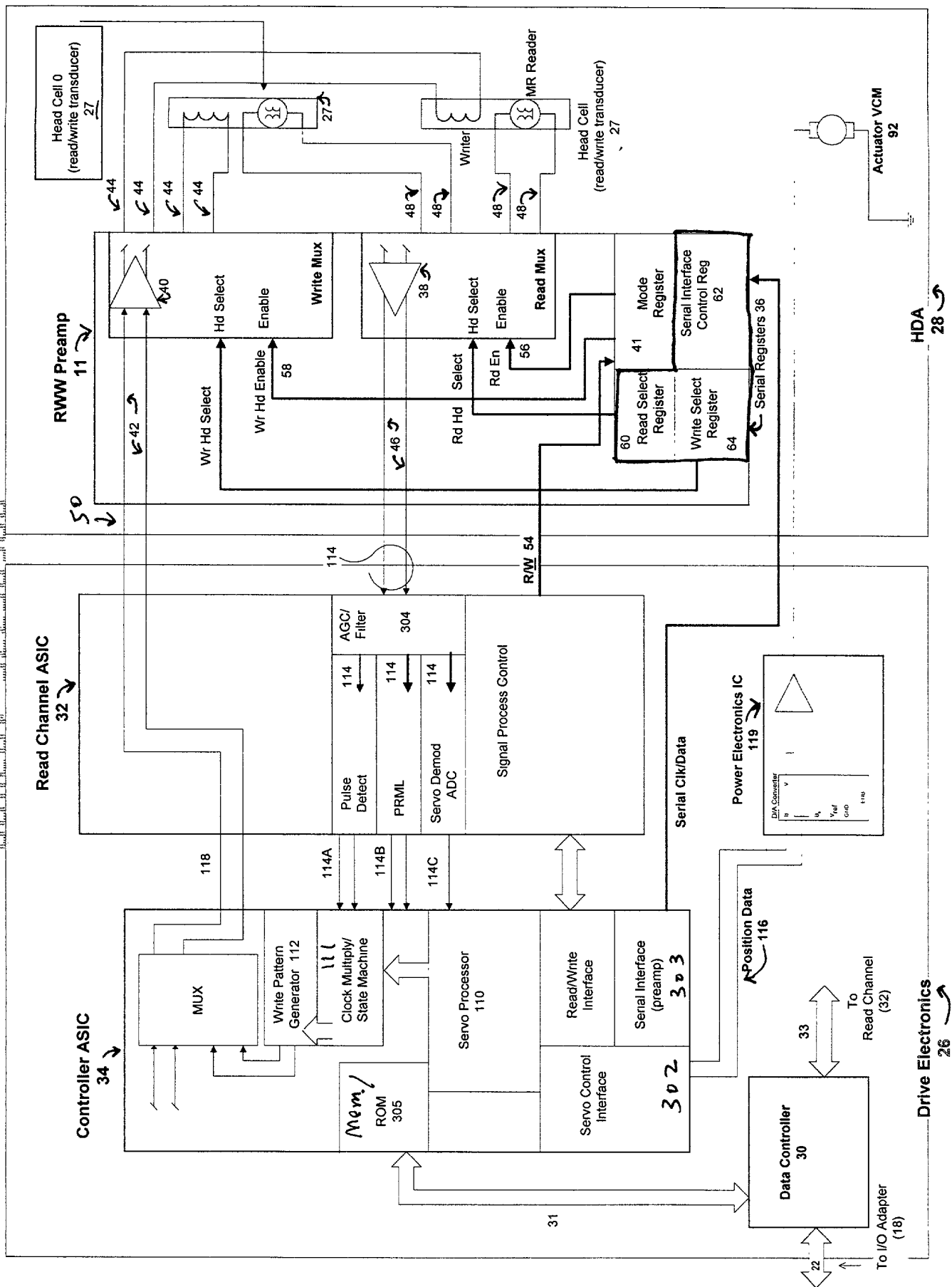


Fig. 3

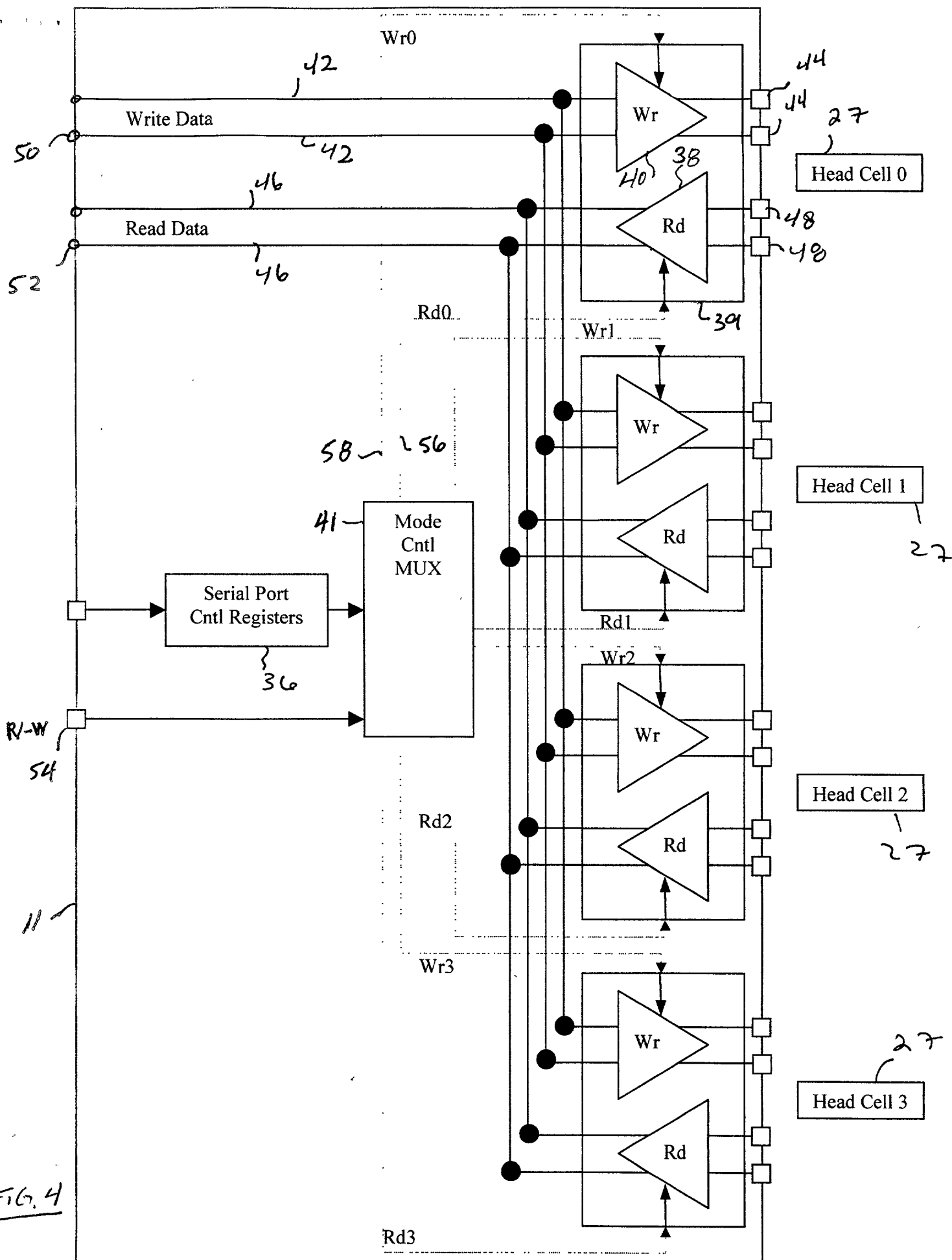
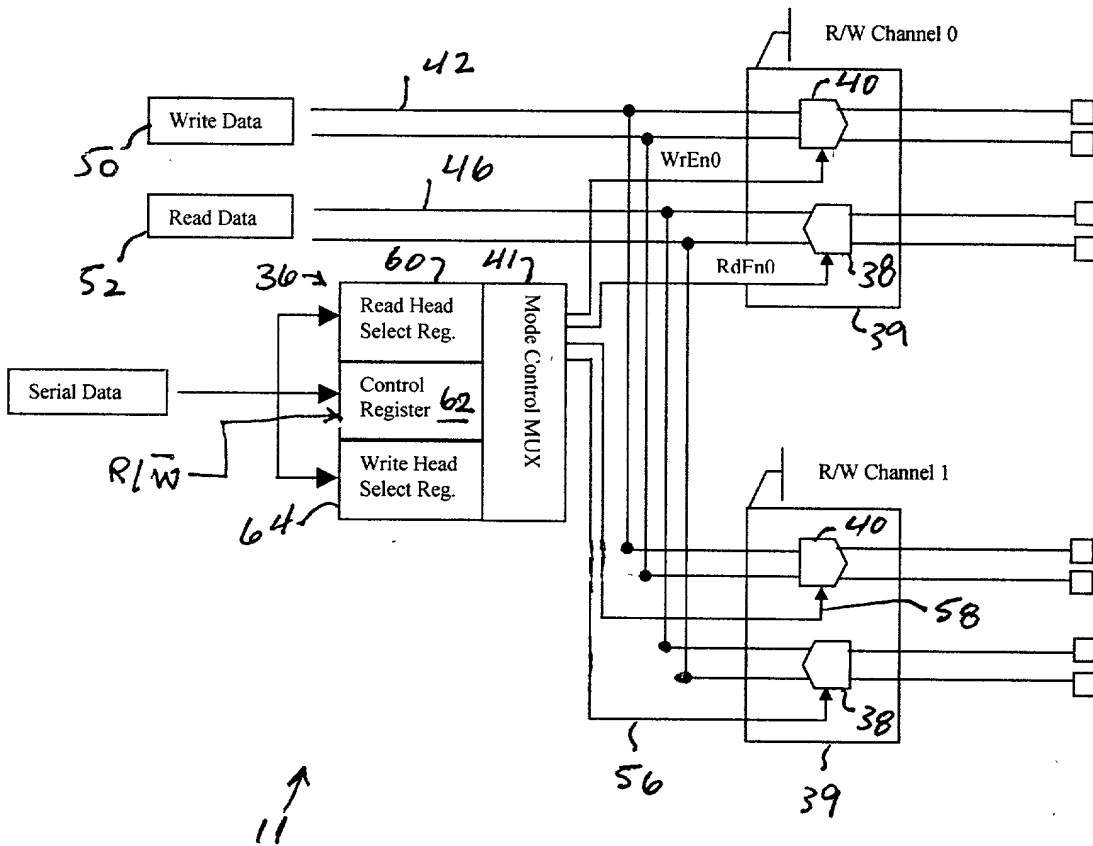


FIG. 4

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis	Normality
Age	35.5	10.5	20	65	0.1	3.0	0.95
Gender	1.5	0.5	1	2	0.0	3.0	0.95
Marital Status	1.5	0.5	1	2	0.0	3.0	0.95
Education	12.5	2.5	9	16	0.1	3.0	0.95
Income	1500	500	500	3000	0.1	3.0	0.95
Health	1.5	0.5	1	2	0.0	3.0	0.95
Stress	2.5	1.0	1	4	0.1	3.0	0.95
Depression	1.5	0.5	1	2	0.0	3.0	0.95
Life Satisfaction	3.5	1.0	1	5	0.1	3.0	0.95
Work Satisfaction	3.0	1.0	1	5	0.1	3.0	0.95
Family Satisfaction	3.5	1.0	1	5	0.1	3.0	0.95
Community Satisfaction	3.0	1.0	1	5	0.1	3.0	0.95
Overall Satisfaction	3.5	1.0	1	5	0.1	3.0	0.95



F1G.5

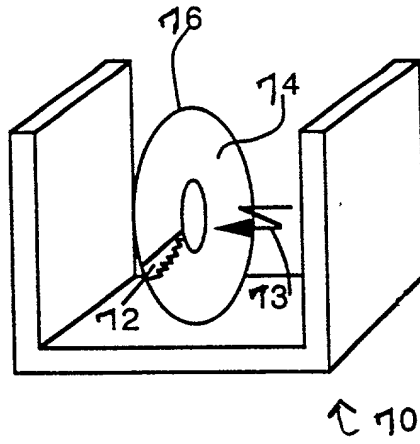


FIG. 6

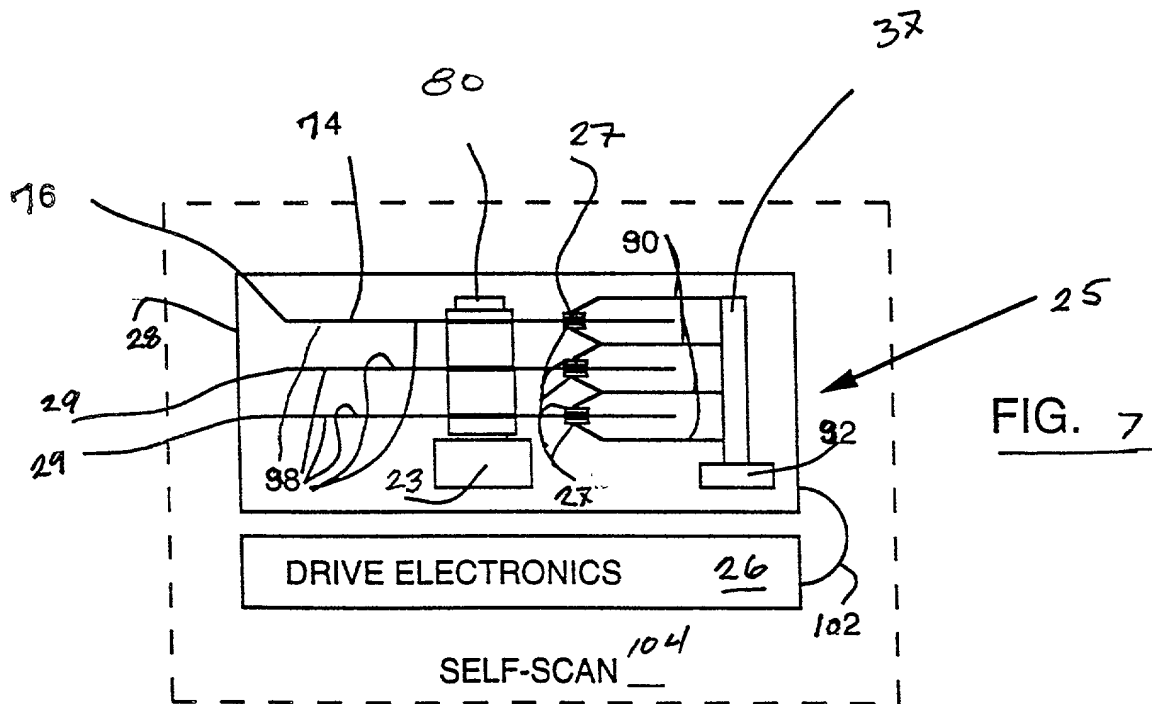
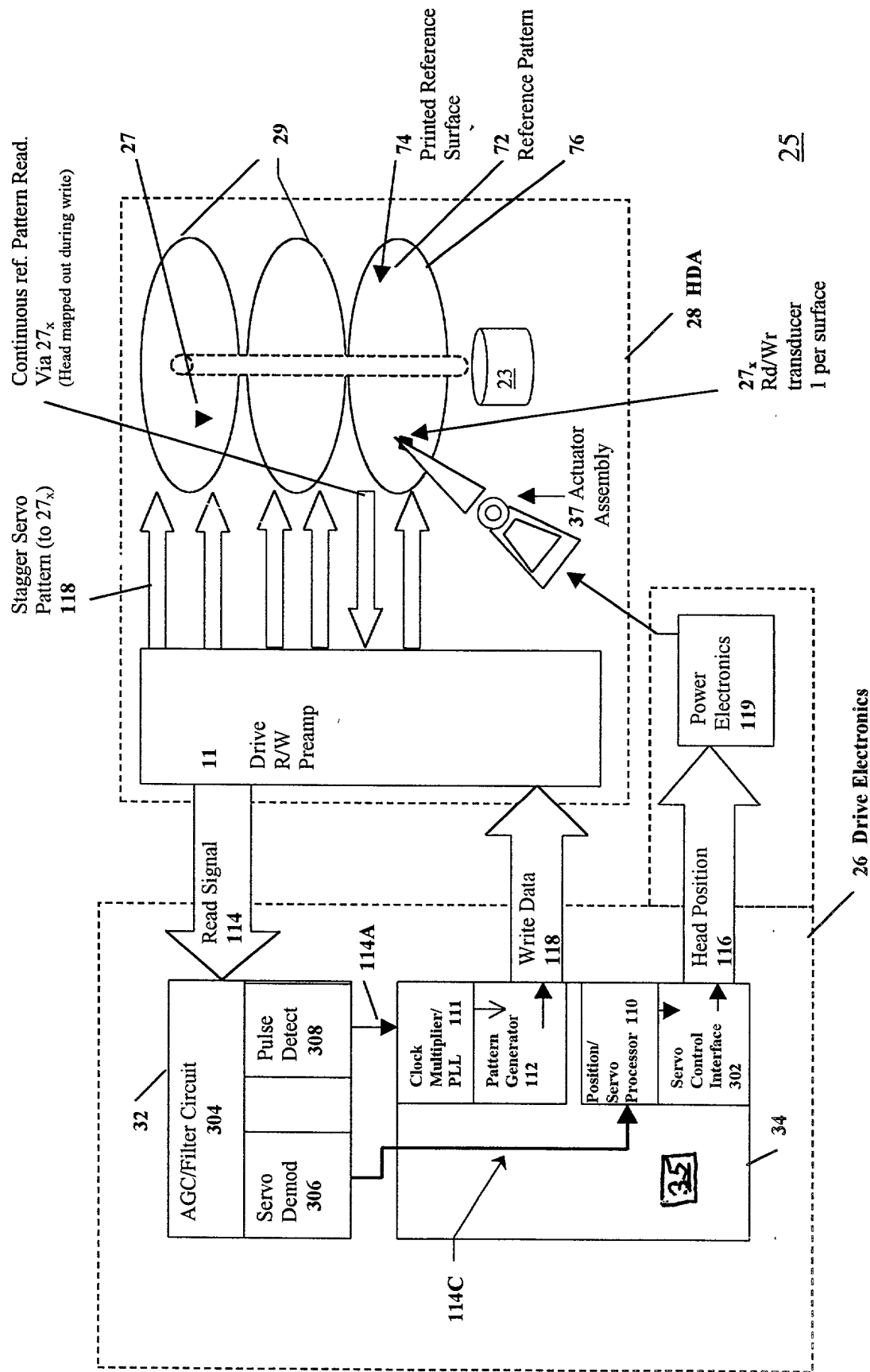


FIG. 7

0042001 52250900

**FIG. 8**



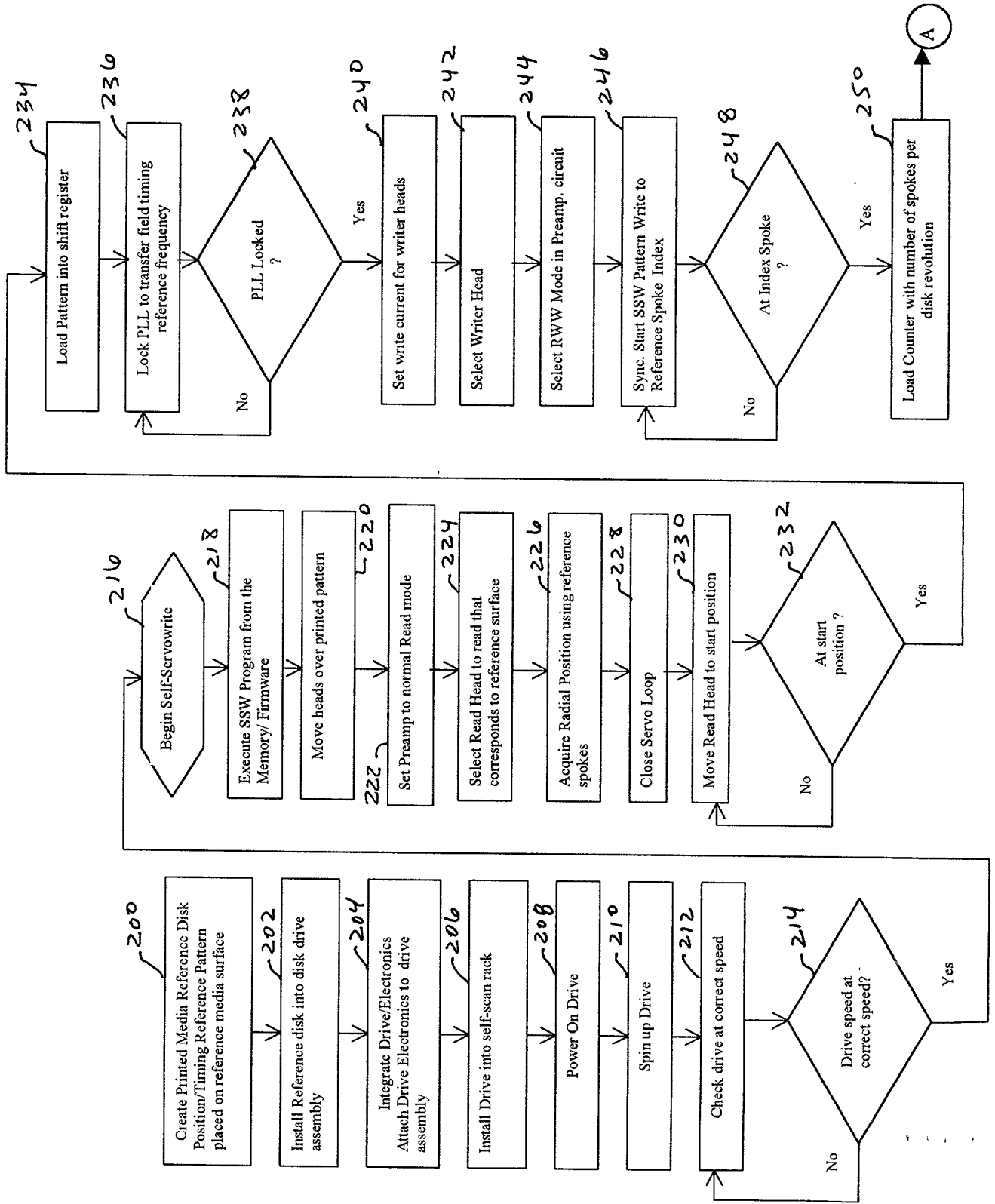


Fig. 9A

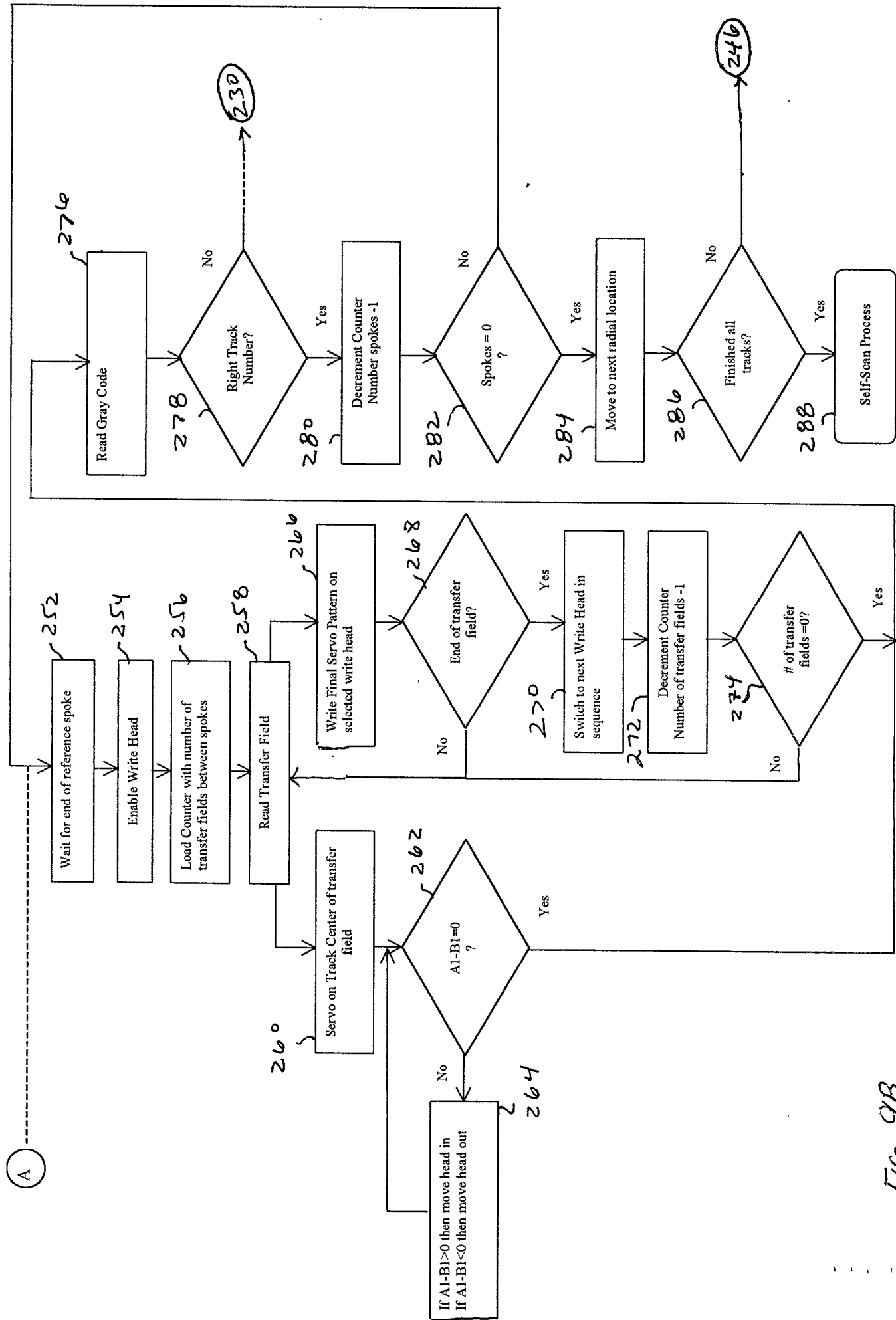
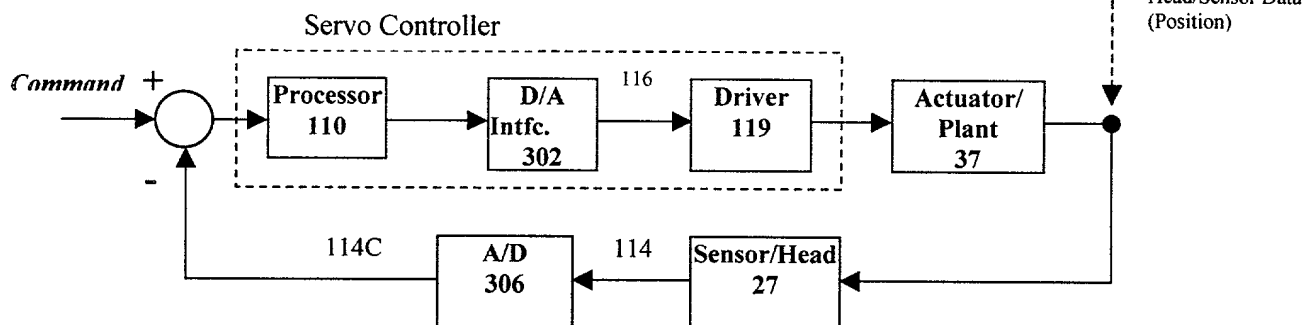
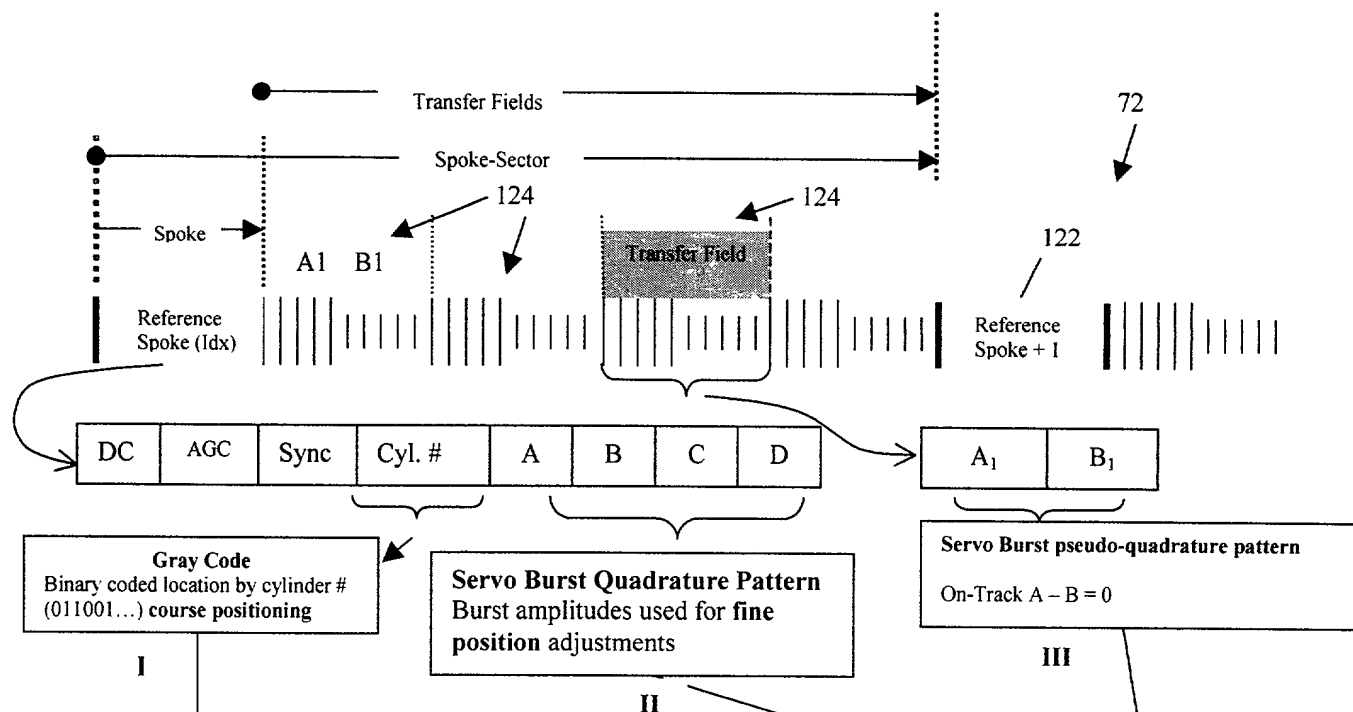


FIG. 9B



## Head Position Control Flow Diagram



Position mode vs. Sense/head data used: (see fig. 10A I, II & III)

I – Course Position (Seek)

I, II – Track Following (On-track, Short Seek)

I, II & III – High Bandwidth Track Following (RWW self-servowrite)

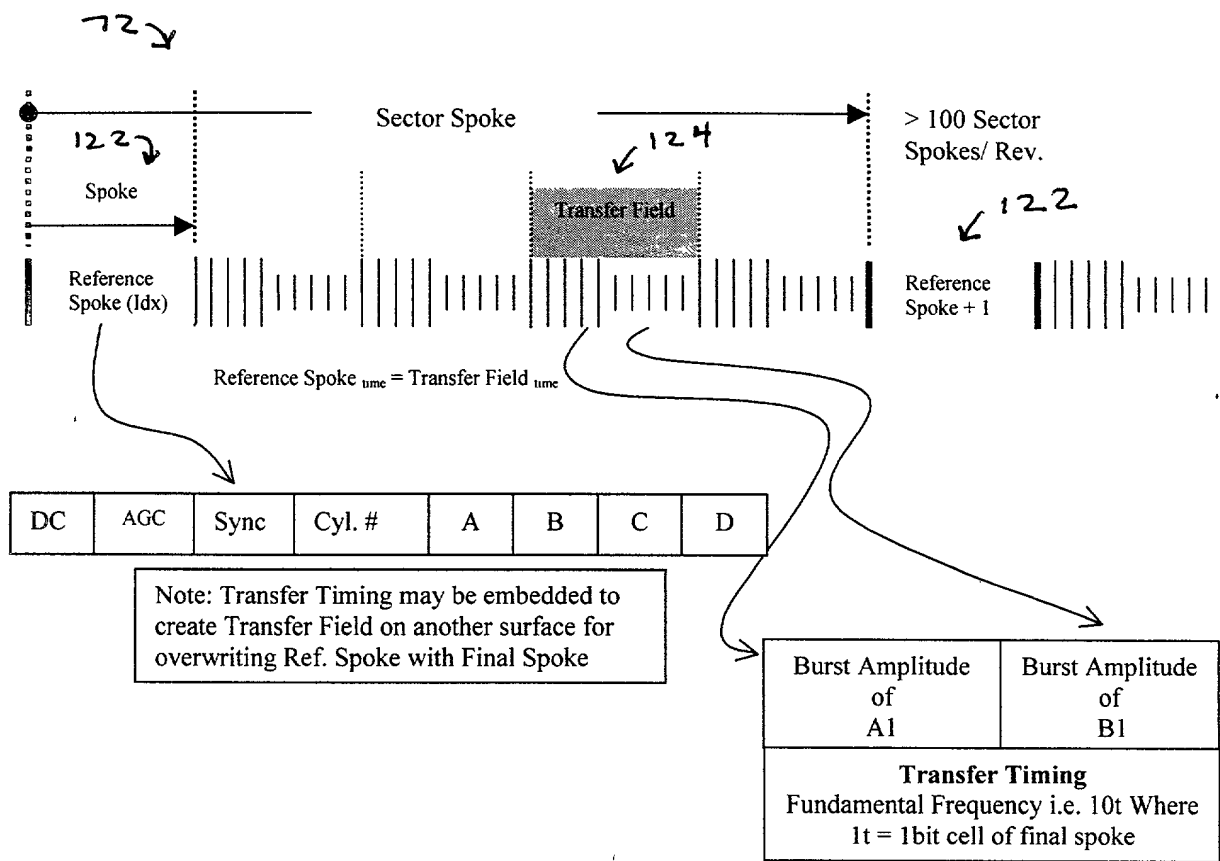


FIG. 10C

001201 52250960

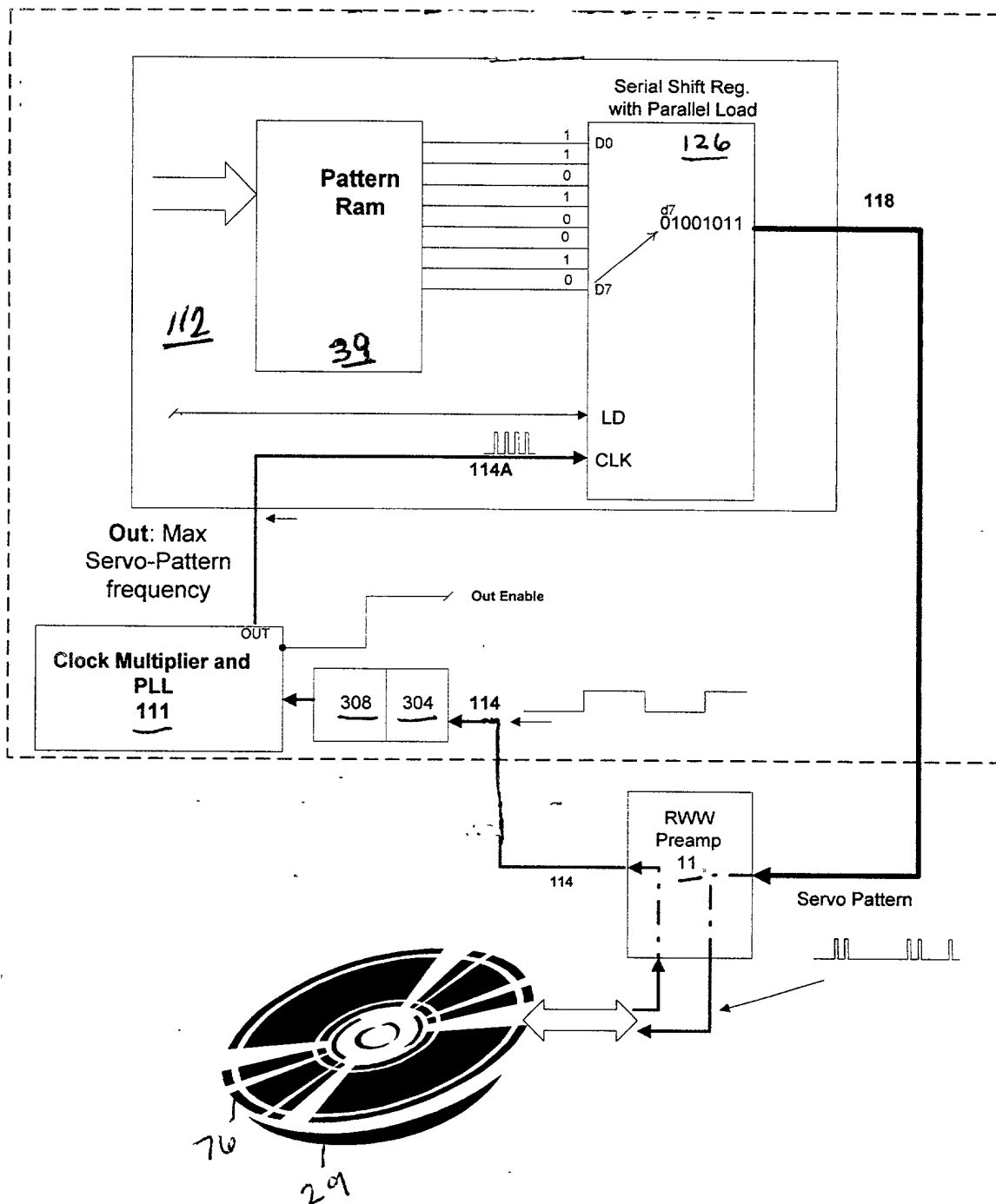
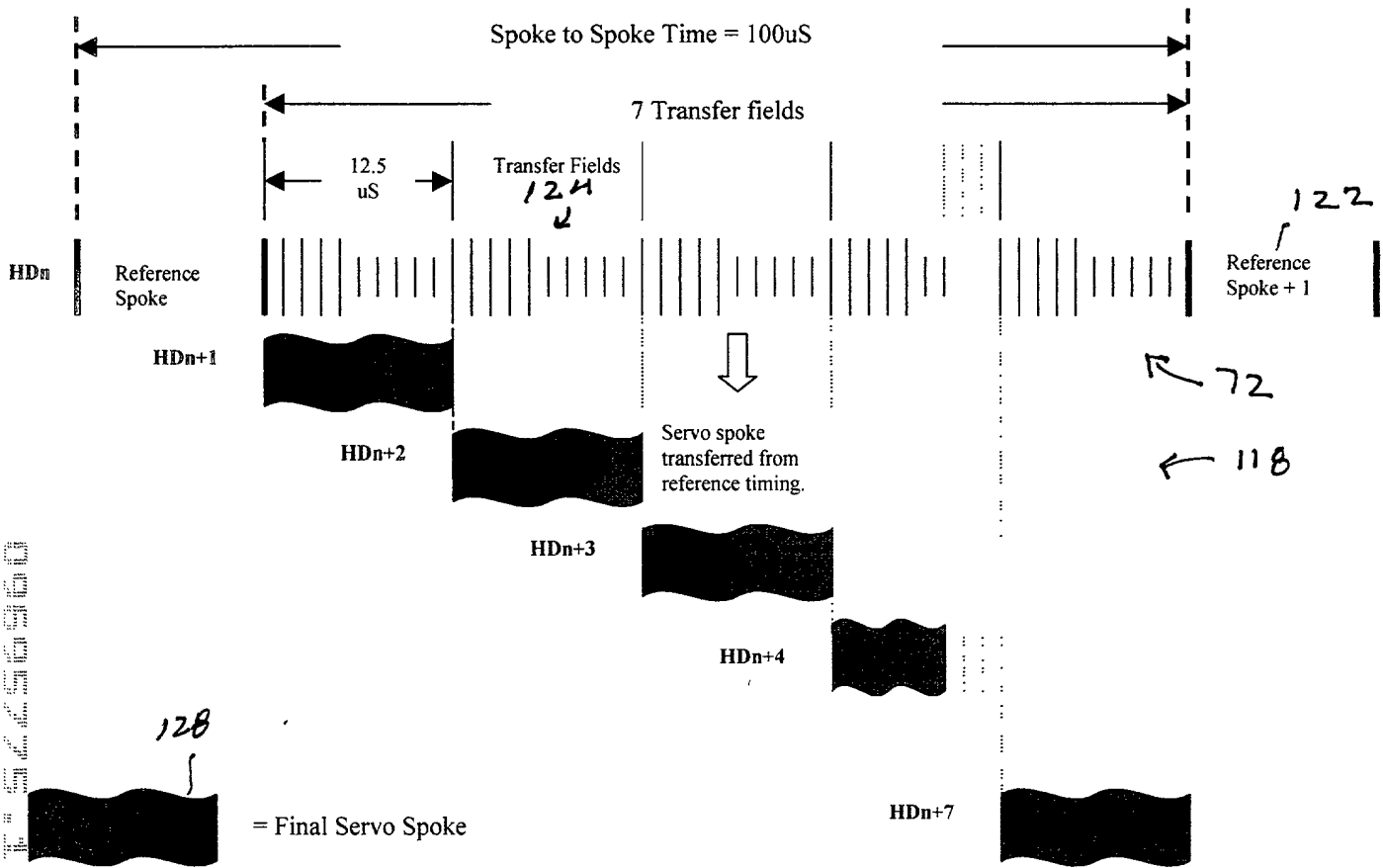


Fig. 11

## Media Reference Pattern and Final Spoke Transfer Reference Surface (HDn)



**This example is based on drive rotational speed at 6000 rpm, and 100 spokes per revolution.**

6000 rpm = 10 mS per revolution.

10mS/100sectors = 100uS per sector.

1 sector = spoke + data field.

1 spoke = sector/8 (for 8 head stagger) = 12.5uS per spoke

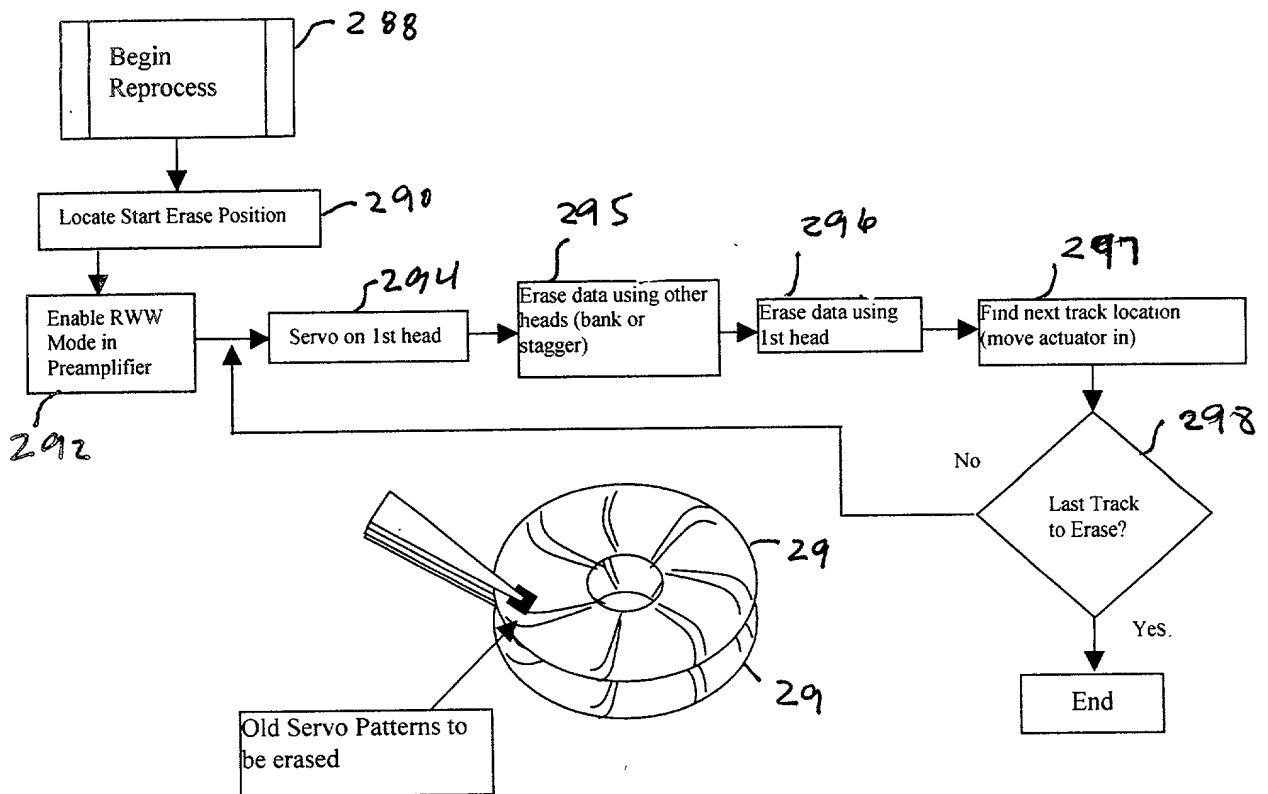
1 spoke(Tt) = 1 transfer field(Tt)

spoke transition(t) = transfer field transition(t)/x

➤ Tt = total time

➤ t = time

FIG. 12



**FIG. 13**

## DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names.

We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **Disk Drive with Read While Write Capability**, the specification of which

  X   is attached hereto.

       was filed on                      as Application Serial No.                     ,  
and was amended by on                     .

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Applications

Priority Claimed

NONE

<u>          </u> (Number)	<u>          </u> (Country)	<u>                                    </u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>      </u> Yes	<u>      </u> No
-------------------------------	--------------------------------	---	----------------------	---------------------

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Provisional Application No.

\_\_\_\_\_

Filing Date

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States applications(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

NOT APPLICABLE

\_\_\_\_\_

(Application Serial No.)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Filing Date)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Status)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Application Serial No.)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Filing Date)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Status)

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

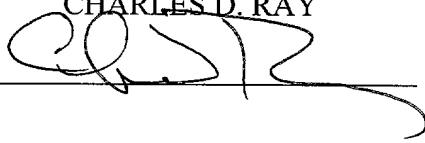
001001 52256960

On behalf of Quantum Corporation, Assignee of our entire right, title and interest, we hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) with full power of substitution to act exclusively for Quantum Corporation to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith;  
JONATHAN B. PENN, Registration No. 32,587, HENRY J. GROTH, Registration No. 39,696. Please address all correspondence and communications to:

HENRY J. GROTH  
Patent Law Manager  
Quantum Corporation  
500 McCarthy Blvd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
Telephone (408) 894-5425

All telephone calls should be directed to HENRY J. GROTH, telephone number (408) 894-5425.

Full Name of Inventor: CHARLES D. RAY

Inventor's Signature: 

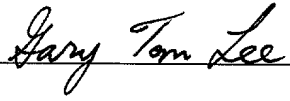
Date: 10/16/00

Inventor's Residence: 300 Quien Sabe #3, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: Same as residence address above.

Full Name of Inventor: GARY LEE

Inventor's Signature: 

Date: 10-11-2000

Inventor's Residence: 342 East Wyoming Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

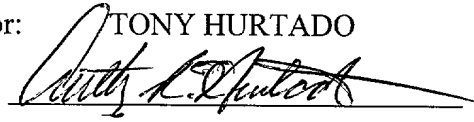
Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: Same as residence address above.



Full Name of Inventor: TONY HURTADO

Inventor's Signature:



Date: 10/23/00

Inventor's Residence: 10152 Camino Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014

Citizenship: CANADA

Post Office Address: Same as residence address above.